

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

**CISSMUpdate**



Spring/Summer 2024 NEWSLETTER

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## Sensibility about Sensing: Lindsay Rand Releases New CISSM Policy Brief



How might quantum technology revolutionize nuclear deterrence? CISSM Research Associate **Lindsay Rand's** new CISSM Policy Brief, "Sensibility about Sensing: A Socio-Technical Evaluation of Quantum Sensing Implications for Nuclear Deterrence," tackles this question. It is based on Rand's **prize-winning dissertation**, which develops a novel socio-technical framework for assessing the effects of emerging technologies on strategic stability and applies it to quantum sensing. Rand's work goes beyond technical specifics, incorporating crucial social factors influencing perceptions of emerging technologies. This brief provides valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and those interested in the nexus of technology and global security. Explore this nuanced perspective on how quantum sensing could reshape our understanding of deterrence in the 21st century.

**[Read the policy brief here. »](#)**

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## Disaster Business: Catherine Worsnop Explores How Natural Disasters Fuel Human Trafficking in Latest Publication



In a new publication co-authored with Kathleen Vogel, CISSM Research Fellow **Catherine Z. Worsnop** sheds light on the alarming connection between natural disasters and human trafficking. Worsnop argues that the financial and political incentives of post-disaster reconstruction can create conditions that facilitate human trafficking. Through rigorous data analysis, the article demonstrates that natural disasters can serve as a magnet for trafficking, especially in cases of more damaging disasters, where governments have political incentives to rebuild, and where anti-trafficking capacity is weak. This groundbreaking research highlights the need for targeted policy interventions to disrupt the relationship between disasters and human trafficking.

[Read the news story on this latest research »](#)

[Read the full publication »](#)

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## Michael Woldemariam featured in a Two Part Podcast on the Challenges Facing African Democracy



**Michael Woldemariam** offers deep insights into the complex landscape of African democracy in a compelling two-part feature on the Democracy in Question podcast. In the first episode, Woldemariam explores the erosion of Ethiopia's democratization process, its impact on regional politics in the Horn of Africa, and how shifting global geopolitics are influencing democratic trends across the continent. The second installment delves into the lingering effects of European colonialism on African democratization, examining the role of international organizations and donor reliance in shaping democratic structures. Woldemariam also discusses the critical intersection of climate change and demographic challenges facing Africa.

[Listen to Part 1 of the podcast here »](#)

[Listen to Part 2 of the podcast here»](#)

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## Transforming the Capstone Course: ISEP/IDEV's Innovative Approach to Policy Education



The ISEP/IDEV section of the School of Public Policy master's capstone program has undergone exciting transformations under CISSM Research Professor and Research Director David Backer's leadership. Students can now engage in groundbreaking initiatives like the **Department of Defense Academic Capstone Mentorship**, where they collaborate with Pentagon experts on critical projects, culminating in high-level briefings. The program has gone global, with five students conducting **international fieldwork** in Senegal, Ghana and Taiwan, gaining invaluable hands-on experience. A brand new **Capstone Poster Session** was also introduced, offering students a platform to showcase their research to a diverse audience from the UMD community and beyond. These innovations have significantly elevated the quality of capstone projects, enriching students' learning experiences, opening new career pathways, and

fortifying partnerships with government and industry sectors.

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## Expanding Catherine Kelleher's Legacy



Each March as part of Women's History Month, we bring an outstanding female security policy scholar or practitioner to campus for the **Kelleher Forum**. On March 7th, Dipali Mukhopadhyay presented her new research project on "**The (I)logic of Precarious State-building,**" which explores contradictions inherent in U.S. efforts to achieve both security and democracy objectives in places like Afghanistan. Also in Spring 2024, Lena Andrews, our 2023 Kelleher Forum speaker, joined SPP and CISSM as a full-time faculty member and Catherine's niece, Washington Post columnist Megan McArdle published a wonderful **op-ed** of her "Aunt Cathy" and other trailblazing women. During UMD Giving Day on March 6th, we had an outpouring of support for the **Kelleher Fellowship Fund**. Stay tuned for news this fall about the sixth **Kelleher Fellow**, who will be starting her Ph.D. studies at SPP shortly, and for several other exciting initiatives we have underway to ensure that Catherine's legacy endures for generations to come.

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## A Conversation with Lena Andrews, new SPP Professor and CISSM Fellow



**Lena Andrews**, a former CIA military analyst and author of the best-selling book "Valiant Women," has joined the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland as an Associate Research Professor. With a background in security studies and a PhD from MIT, Andrews was drawn to SPP and CISSM by the engaging environment, intellectually stimulating colleagues, and the opportunity to contribute to the school's mission. In her new role, she plans to re-energize the intelligence certificate program, teach an undergraduate course on intelligence policy, and mentor students, particularly women and underrepresented groups, as they pursue careers in the field.

[Learn more about Andrews »](#)

[Read the conversation with Andrews »](#)

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## How Harris Found Her Foreign Policy Footing



As vice president, Kamala Harris has largely focused on domestic issues such as reproductive rights, labor rights, and gun violence. Now that she is the Democratic nominee for president, analysis of her record on international issues and her use of the vice president's power, such as it is, offer important clues about what type of foreign policy president she might become.

[Read the full publication »](#)

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## Global Leaders Convene at UMD to Advance Responsible AI in the Military Domain



The U.S. Departments of State and Defense joined with CISSM to co-host the inaugural plenary of countries that have endorsed the **Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Autonomy** in March 2024. Representatives from over 60 states met at the School of Public Policy during spring break to discuss the integration of AI and autonomy into the military domain and the need for international consensus on best practices. As part of this two-day event, CISSM Director Dr. Nancy Gallagher led a discussion with Congressman Ted Lieu on promoting American leadership in AI innovation while safeguarding against misuse.

**[Read more about the Political Declaration and Plenary »](#)**

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#### OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CISSM AFFILIATES

##### **To Find a VP, Harris Should Look to the Swing States**

Newsweek

CISSM Author: Aaron Mannes

July 22, 2024

##### **The Red Sea Crisis Goes Beyond the Houthis**

Foreign Affairs

CISSM Author: Michael Woldemariam

July 19, 2024

##### **Nuclear Terrorism Assessment of U.S. Strategies to Prevent, Counter, and Respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction**

National Academies Press

CISSM Author: Steve Fetter

June 18, 2024

##### **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles: Evaluating inadvertent escalation risks**

DeepCuts

CISSM Author: Steve Fetter

May, 2024

##### **NATO at 75 Years: A Guide to the Past and a Roadmap for the Future**

Orbis

CISSM Author: Christopher J Hickey  
May, 2024

**The failures of Russian Aerospace Forces in the Russia–Ukraine war and the future of air power**

Journal of Strategic Studies  
CISSM Author: Jaganath Sankaran  
May 10, 2024

**Policy Professor’s International Study Reveals Weaknesses in Global Efforts to Combat Money Laundering**

Wiley Online Library  
CISSM Author: Peter Reuter  
April 18, 2024

**How Female Service Members Paved the Way for the Modern Women’s Rights Movement**

Military.com  
CISSM Author: Lena Andrews  
March 18, 2024

**A-Bomb for the People? When Leaders Cue the Public in Nuclear Decision-Making**

Journal of Global Security Studies  
CISSM Author: Ariel Petrovics  
March 4, 2024

**Foreign Policy and Global Health**

The Oxford Handbook of Foreign Policy Analysis  
CISSM Author: Catherine Z. Worsnop  
Other Author: Summer Marion  
February 22, 2024

**Chemical Weapon Disarmament**

The Washington Post  
CISSM Author: Milton Leitenberg  
January 19, 2024

RECENT CISSM NEWS

**Meet the Class of 2026 Robertson Fellows**

August 13, 2024

**Parker Named J-PAL Affiliate; On Quest to Combat Poverty and Education Inequality in Mexico**

August 7, 2024

**Authenticity and “Hidden Curriculum” Lead Pathway to Black Indigenous People of Color Leadership in Higher Ed**

July 15, 2024

**A Public Policy Pivot: Colleen McRann MPP ’24 finds a new career path at SPP**

May 31, 2024

**‘Peace and Healing are Possible,’ Says Alum Awarded International Development Fellowship**

May 14, 2024

## **Brody Speaker Explores Violence and State-Building in Post-Invasion Iraq**

April 12, 2024

## **SPP Professor Awarded NIH Grant to Study Impact of Mandatory Preschool in Mexico**

January 29, 2024

### CISSM AFFILIATES IN THE NEWS

## **Europeanized NATO: Navigating a post-American era in the continent**

Al Mayadeen  
Joshua Shifrinson  
August 9, 2024

## **Kamala Harris Veepstakes Reaches Critical Final Hours**

CNN  
Aaron Mannes  
August 4, 2024

## **Harris Needs to Show Her Credibility on Foreign Policies**

The Missing Piece [International]  
Aaron Mannes  
July 26, 2024

## **J.D. Vance's Foreign Policy Views Plus Trump's Ties to Putin Spell Doom For Ukraine**

Background Briefing  
Joshua Shifrinson  
July 17, 2024

## **Will NATO utilize and expand its alliance in response to rising threats?**

KCBS Radio  
Joshua Shifrinson  
July 9, 2024

## **ENVISION24: Changes in How Terrorists Behave**

National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center  
Alec Worsnop  
July 3, 2024

## **Will Biden's Saudi Security Pact Spark a Nuclear Arms Race?**

Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
Ariel Petrovics  
July 2, 2024

## **How fentanyl changed the game for Mexico's drug cartels**

Financial Times  
Peter Reuter  
June 25, 2024

## **Nigel Farage's Ukraine comments aren't 'disgraceful'**

UnHerd  
Joshua Shifrinson



June 23, 2024

### **How Strong Are U.S. Interests in Defending Countries Across Europe?**

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Joshua Shifrinson  
March 19, 2024

### **The Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal and the Horn of Africa's Game of Ports**

Globely News  
Michael Woldemariam  
March 18, 2024

### **Trump said he might ignore NATO's duty to defend. Here's what the group does.**

Washington Post  
Joshua Shifrinson  
February 11, 2024

### **Ethiopia-Somaliland MOU and Rising Tensions in the Horn of Africa**

VOA Tigrigna  
Michael Woldemariam  
January 17, 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.

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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.

 **Sign Up for CISSM Event Announcements**



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