CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Privacy and Security
- Cyber Statecraft Development
- Public/Private Partnership
- Protection of Intellectual Property
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Combating Terrorism and Cyber Crime
- Information Sharing
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS
- Terrorism Around the World
- Radicalization and Messaging
- Foreign Fighters
- Counterterrorism Strategies

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT
- Water Security
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Promise and peril: blockchain, Bitcoin and the fight against corruption
*Transparency International*: 31 January 2018

Bitcoin and blockchain technology are double-edged swords that can either help fight corruption or aid transnational criminals, depending on how they are employed.

https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/blockchain_bitcoin_and_the_fight_against_corruption

Saudi anti-corruption drive generates $106bn in settlements
*BBC News*: 30 January 2018

The first phase of Saudi Arabia’s high-profile anti-corruption drive appears to be coming to an end, with the government saying it has reached a settlement with a majority of the 381 people detained for questioning and over 50 people facing the prospect of a trial.


For more on this theme:

Romania Names 3rd Prime Minister in a Year Amid Struggle Over Corruption

Nafta Said to Gain Steam With Agreement on Anti-Corruption Moves

Argentina’s Mauricio Macri targets nepotism in fight against corruption

Presidential corruption verdict shows just how flawed Brazil’s justice system is
https://theconversation.com/presidential-corruption-verdict-shows-just-how-flawed-brazils-justice-system-is-90794

Nepal drafts new anti-corruption law on par with UN

What does corruption mean for Africans?

Justice Dept. Escalates Inquiry on Global Sports Corruption

Pardon me? Presidential clemency and impunity for grand corruption
https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/pardon_me_presidential_clemency_and_impunity_for_grand_corruption

Welcome to the club: Xi takes anti-corruption hunt to all Chinese
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Poor governance, graft hindering SE Asia’s war on drugs
Jonathan Edward – The Malay Mail Online: 31 January 2018

“Good governance is vital to interdicting and reducing the supply of drugs. If you have corrupt officials, it makes it a lot harder. The drug trade, like other forms of organized crime, seeks to co-opt, undermine and erode the institutions of state,” according to James A. Walsh, deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/poor-governance-graft-hindering-se-asias-war-on-drugs#RyoEpSSVcRajs8EG.97

With U.S. competition hurting its marijuana business, Mexico warms a little to legalization
Kate Linthicum – Los Angeles Times: 27 January 2018

Exports of marijuana from Mexico into the United States are plummeting as crime involving harder drugs rises, making Mexico rethink its stance on legalizing pot.


For more on this theme:

How Bogota and Medellin shopping districts laundered drug money

The perverse economy of drug trafficking

Tracking Mexico’s Cartels in 2018
https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/tracking-mexicos-cartels-2018

Fewer killings in Philippine drug war make U.S. ‘cautiously optimistic’: official

Taliban guns, drugs, and explosives seized by Afghan Special Security Forces in Helmand

This Billionaire-Backed App Is Being Used to Buy and Sell Drugs
https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/paq88n/this-billionaire-backed-app-is-being-used-to-buy-and-sell-drugs

The San Francisco DA will dismiss thousands of marijuana-related convictions in an unprecedented move

Mexican Cartels in Colombia: Setting up Shop or Seeking New Partners?
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

In pursuit of the tortoise smugglers
Rowan Moore Gerety – The Guardian: 2 February 2018
Wildlife detectives are employing new ways to find and prosecute the traffickers of rare and endangered tortoises, no matter how they are being smuggled.

Amid the Plunder of Forests, a Ray of Hope
Though forests are disappearing at an alarming rate, due mainly to illegal logging, there is hope for the future. The actions of some countries and organizations, coupled with technological advances, is helping to curtail the decimation of forests around the world.

For more on this theme:
Mexican drug cartels are preying on a multibillion-dollar industry and taking a deadly toll on the workers who run it

Three Cambodian Patrolers Killed in Apparent Retaliation For Illegal Logging Bust

China, SA and UK join forces on illegal wildlife trade
http://sino.co.uk/news/article/china-sa-and-uk-join-forces-on-illegal-wildlife-trade

Rhino poaching: Latest figures show a decade of bloodshed in South Africa

Local experts to participate in workshop on wildlife trafficking

New study combats consumption of illegal wildlife products in Viet Nam

Noose tightens around Southeast Asia’s illegal wildlife trade
https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Economy/Noose-tightens-around-Southeast-Asia-s-illegal-wildlife-trade

Bid to combat illegal fishing

The rise of Indonesian nationalism in response to illegal fishing

Australia and Vietnam stamping out illegal fishing
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In new EU sea mission, ships not obliged to bring migrants to Italy
Steve Scherer – Reuters: 1 February 2018

The European Union’s new Mediterranean migrant rescue operation, called Themis, eliminates a requirement that all migrants rescued at sea be sent to Italy. Under the new rules, the country coordinating the rescue can determine where to send the migrants.


Was Your Seafood Caught With Slave Labor? New Database Helps Retailers Combat Abuse
Clare Leschin-Hoar – National Public Radio: 1 February 2018

Already known for its seafood sustainability ratings, the Monterey Bay Aquarium has created the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool database to help buyers determine if their seafood purchase is a product of slavery or child labor.

https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/02/01/582214032/was-your-seafood-caught-with-slave-labor-new-database-helps-retailers-combat-abu

For more on this theme:

Stopping Human Trafficking: FBI Works with Partners to Get Traffickers Off the Streets

Human trafficking is big business. Law enforcement needs your help to put an end to it

Human traffickers capitalise on ‘chaos’ at Europe’s migrant hotspots
http://news.trust.org/item/20180131173255-ju2f

Migrants’ heroine faces jail for people smuggling
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

If governments can't make nice on the Internet, they'll endanger all of us
Douglas Frantz – The Washington Post: 30 January 2018

The individual internets being established by some countries in conjunction with other national and regional barriers threaten the very fabric of the worldwide web. Governments need to come together to determine how they want to govern the internet as a whole, or it may be torn apart.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) AT&T urges Congress to create an ‘Internet Bill of Rights'

(U.S.) Trump administration wants larger role in shaping international data laws

(Global) Securing the digital transition

INTERNET FREEDOM

Rising internet shutdowns aimed at ‘silencing dissent'
Yarno Ritzen – Al-Jazeera: 29 January 2018

Governments around the world are trending away from a free and open internet as they increasingly employ blocking tools and shutdowns to silence opposition.


For more on this theme:

(China) Weibo falls foul of China's internet watchdog for failing to censor content

(Iran) ‘Halal’ internet means more control in Iran after unrest

(Cameroon) Cameroon is being sued for blocking the internet in its Anglophone regions
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

War room to boardroom: The new era of cybersecurity
Jacqueline Ramos – The Hill: 30 January 2018

Corporations are finally realizing that cyber security is an issue that must be faced head-on. Threats no longer come from individuals alone. They also come from state-sponsored actors and can profoundly affect a company’s bottom line.

http://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/371416-war-room-to-boardroom-the-new-era-of-cybersecurity

For more on this theme:
(Global) How Machine Learning And Other Tech Trends Will Disrupt Cyber Security In 2018

(U.S., Global) What the US Military Can Teach Everyone Else About Cyber Security

(Israel) What Israel’s cybersecurity landscape foreshadows for 2018

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Canada needs a national data strategy
Jim Balsillie – OurWindsor.ca: 30 January 2018

The former co-CEO of Blackberry Ltd. suggests it’s time for Canada to develop a national strategy to protect the data citizens create and to stop tech giants from controlling the data they gather about their users.


For more on this theme:
(China, Taiwan) Chinese Hacking Against Taiwan: A Blessing for the United States?

(Cuba, U.S.) Cuba protests US internet task force: report

(Australia) Data breach disclosure law will lift Australia’s cyber security game
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

SpaceX Launch Of Falcon Rocket With GovSat Payload
Denise Bradley – Newburgh Gazette: 1 February 2018

To expand the reach of NATO’s surveillance and its ability to deter cyber attacks, the public/private partnership of Luxemburg and GovSat launched a satellite in January.

For more on this theme:
(Global) International public-private cybersecurity partnership launched at World Economic Forum

(U.S.) Centcom Seeks Open Dialogue with the Private Sector

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China to Block Overseas VPN Services From End of March
Radio Free Asia: 31 January 2018

China is cracking down further on virtual private networks (VPN), no longer allowing overseas versions to be used to circumvent its “Great Firewall.” This has many businesses worried about their intellectual property and the implications of government censorship.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Here’s how hostile states are hiding behind ‘independent’ hackers
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/02/01/heres-how-hostile-states-are-hiding-behind-independent-hackers/?utm_term=.1e7740403b0b

(U.S., Global) Woe betide those who violate Grumpy Cat’s intellectual property

(China) Internet tribunal speeds up judicial process
http://www.ecns.cn/2018/02-01/291075.shtml
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cyber security experts urge capacity building for cyber defense
Chike Onwuegbuchi – The Guardian: 26 January 2018

Experts in cyber security are hoping Nigeria will prepare for the inevitable shortage of cyber security professionals by creating a training program.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Why So Few Women Work In Cyber Security (And How We Can Change It)
https://www.quora.com/Why-are-there-so-few-women-in-cybersecurity-and-how-can-we-change-that

(U.S.) ‘Girls Go CyberStart’ gets young girls into cyber security
http://www.nbc11news.com/content/news/472030693.html

(U.S.) Arkansas Ahead of Curve as Cyber Security Training Ground

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Hezbollah Goes on the Cyber Offensive with Iran’s Help
Levi Maxey – The Cipher Brief: 30 January 2018

Hezbollah’s hackers are conducting cyber warfare, thanks in large part to Iran teaching them the ropes.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Cyberspace Triggers a New Kind of Arms Race
https://www.afcea.org/content/cyberspace-triggers-new-kind-arms-race

(Global) How can we avoid another record year for breaches and ransomware?

(Global) X, the research lab founded by Google, targets cybercrime and ‘overlooked’ hacking threats
http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2018/02/01/google-x-goes-after-cybercrime-overlooked-hacking-threats.html
INFORMATION SHARING

House panel presses DHS, FBI to help small biz with cyber defense
Lauren C. Williams – FCW: 1 February 2018

The U.S. Congress is encouraging the Department of Homeland Security and the
Federal Bureau of Investigation to help small businesses defend against cyber attacks. A large
portion of this assistance would be ensuring that threat information is shared with these
smaller organizations.

https://fcw.com/articles/2018/02/01/small-biz-cybersecurity-williams.aspx

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) DHS secretary: Focus on the systemic cyber risks
(U.S.) DHS, auto industry group team up on cyber

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial cyber security continues to be poor, warns report
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 1 February 2018

As industrial systems become increasingly connected, the threat of cyber attacks grows. Even a
simple Google search reveals unprotected industrial control systems, according to a report by the
United Kingdom-based security firm Positive Technologies.


For more on this theme:
(Russia, U.K.) Russian cyber attack would cripple UK infrastructure, warns
defence secretary
(Poland, Israel) Polish power grid operator to work with Israeli utility on
cyber-security
(U.S.) Should the U.S. try to deter cyberattacks by promising nuclear retaliation?
ISIS

ISIS Festers and Grows in Lawless Libya
Bennett Seftel – The Cipher Brief: 26 January 2018
ISIS has been largely defeated in Iraq and Syria, but Libya is another matter. The group maintains a presence there, which poses a regional threat.
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/isis-festers-grows-lawless-libya

The bureaucracy of evil: how Islamic State ran a city
Ghaith Abdul-Ahad – The Guardian: 29 January 2018
In the first part of a series, The Guardian examines how ISIS attempted to conduct itself as a state, specifically in Mosul, Iraq. From terror operations to trash collection, how did ISIS administer its so-called state?

For more on this theme:
Opinion ISIS Is Dying, but ISIS II Is Destined to Take Its Place
ISIS Releases Bloody New Video Singing ‘Kill Them All’ in U.S. and Other Countries
Revolutionary Guards, Islamic State fighters clash in west Iran
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-clash-islamic-state/revolutionary-guards-islamic-state-fighters-clash-in-west-iran-idUSKBN1FG0IN
Syria: The Islamic State Sees an Opportunity
https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/syria-islamic-state-sees-opportunity
Islamic State Gains Ground in Afghanistan as Its Caliphate Crumbles Elsewhere
https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-gains-ground-afghanistan-caliphate-crumbles-elsewhere/
ISIS’s Media Network in the Era after the Fall of the Islamic State
Changing Islamic State propaganda
Afghan forces uncover ISIS hideout in Kabul district
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Diminished at Home, Durable Boko Haram May Go Global**
*Levi Maxey – The Cipher Brief: 21 January 2018*

Though Boko Haram has been largely defeated territorially, it still has the ability and reach to strike and remain one of the deadliest terror groups in the world. By aligning itself with global terror groups, it may suggest that Boko Haram intends to expand operations, perhaps worldwide.

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/africa/diminished-home-durable-boko-haram-may-go-global

**Stepped up violence alternately claimed by Islamic State, Taliban**
*Kathy Gannon – SFGate: 30 January 2018*

ISIS and the Taliban are at war with one another in Afghanistan, and that just adds fuel to the dispute over which group is responsible for the upsurge in violence throughout the country. Unfortunately, both are growing in strength, and both are responsible for the violence.


For more on this theme:

**Taliban, IS Fighting Causes Families to Flee in Northern Afghanistan**

**Boko Haram's al-Qaeda Affiliation: A Response to 'Five Myths about Boko Haram'**

**ANALYSIS: The slow death of al-Qaeda in Algeria**
http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/analysis-slow-death-al-qaeda-algeria-143324001

**Egyptian security sources: Dozens of officers recently joined Al-Qaeda-linked group**

**Al-Qaeda Leader Sick of Jihadists ‘Who Cannot Hide a Secret' from Wives**

‘Too soon to write off Al Qaeda, Hamza bin Laden could be leader soon'

**Hamas slams US for listing its chief as terrorist**

**Al-Shabaab: Inside the ranks of women fighters**
http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/Al-Shabaab-women-fighters-/2558-4285476-14tIe76/index.html
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

**ISIS’s War on Families Never Ended**
*Kinana Qaddour – Foreign Policy: 1 February 2018*

ISIS’ extended presence in Syria may be responsible for the next generation of ISIS. Parents in the Syrian province of Deir Ezzor fear their sons have been radicalized and fallen under ISIS’ influence.

http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/01/isiss-war-on-families-never-ended/

**Identifying radical content online**
*Ryan Scrivens and Garth Davies – Policy Options Politiques: 31 January 2018*

Collaboration between social scientists and computer scientists could be the best way to help authorities address the threat of violent extremism.


*For more on this theme:*

**Radicalised by the Islamic State: Time to prosecute, not counsel**

**How teens turn into terrorists**

**‘Lone Wolf’ Moniker Counterproductive in Fighting Terror, Researchers Say**

**What Radicalizes Young Men? This Show Tells You via WhatsApp**
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/30/theater/the-believers-are-but-brothers.html

**Terrorist groups exploiting conflicts in Muslim world: Ahsan**
https://pakobserver.net/terrorist-groups-exploiting-conflicts-muslim-world-ahsan/

**Trinidad’s jihadis: how tiny nation became ISIS recruiting ground**

**Terrorism study center established in Chad**
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

‘Brainwashed’ children of Islamist fighters worry Germany: spy chief
Andrea Shalal and Sabine Siebold – Reuters: 31 January 2018

Germany’s intelligence chief is concerned about the prospect of returning ISIS fighters, warning that their children may have been brainwashed.


For more on this theme:

Interpol circulates list of suspected Isis fighters believed to be in Italy

GENERATION JIHADI Fears ISIS kids will return to Britain to ‘commit atrocities’ and unleash terror on UK streets

US-Backed Syrian Force Holding ‘Hundreds’ of ISIS Foreign Fighters

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Women’s role in countering Islamic State
Syed Sadam Hussain Shah – The Express Tribune: 27 January 2018

Women need to become more involved in countering violent extremism. Their role and abilities are often overlooked, but are critical to stopping radicalization in its tracks.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/1618949/6-womens-role-countering/

For more on this theme:

Too Many Generals, Not Enough Troops or Cash to Catch Terrorists in Sahel

Can Airstrikes Alone Tackle Islamic State in Libya?
https://jamestown.org/program/can-airstrikes-alone-tackle-islamic-state-libya/

SE Asia terror frontline warning: Payne
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

Unsafe water not terrorism kills most Pakistanis
YenıSafak: 19 January 2018
Almost 40 percent of the deaths in Pakistan can be attributed to contaminated drinking water. According to the United Nations, more than 100,000 people die annually due to waterborne diseases.

Earth observations are helping countries manage their water security
PHYS.org: 17 January 2018
Satellites can help track and monitor the location of available water for millions, leading to better water management and security.

For more on this theme:

[Listen] CT Mayor Patricia de Lille chats water crisis, corruption

Cape’s water crisis to have ripple effect
https://mg.co.za/article/2018-02-02-00-capes-water-crisis-to-have-ripple-effect

Why the answer to water insecurity is working together
http://ewn.co.za/2018/01/30/why-the-answer-to-water-insecurity-is-working-together

World Bank: $210mn project to improve Baghdad water quality
http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/010220182

Small but Smart: Benin and Togo Cooperate to Ensure Water Security

A Matter of Survival: Learning to Cooperate Over Water
https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2018/02/matter-survival-learning-cooperate-water/