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
  Health Security
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Latin American democracy is crumbling under corruption**  
*Edward Lynch – The Hill: 28 March 2018*

Widespread corruption among government officials in Latin America is threatening economic development, according to Transparency International, a nongovernmental watchdog organization. Corruption thrives when excessive government power is combined with insufficient intragovernmental competition. Devolving government power, combined with building effective institutions, is key to limiting corruption.

http://thehill.com/opinion/international/380482-latin-american-democracy-is-crumbling-under-corruption

**Latin America’s Fight Against Corruption Isn’t Free**  
*Mac Margolis – Bloomberg: 26 March 2018*

South America’s historic, regionwide anti-corruption drive has had some unpleasant side effects. Canceled government deals with disreputable contractors have suspended public works projects; allegations against public officials by anti-corruption crusaders have crippled government effectiveness; and in Brazil, the center of the “Car Wash” scandal, the economy is faltering as companies stagger under corruption investigations.


*For more on this theme:*

**4 People Arrested Amid Corruption Allegations Following Deadly Russian Mall Fire**  

**15 incentives for greater citizen engagement in the fight against corruption (Part 3 of 4)**  
https://voices.transparency.org/15-incentives-for-greater-citizen-engagement-in-the-fight-against-corruption-part-3-of-4-c0fb077679da

**Italy: Berlusconi Indicted on Corruption Charges**  

**Two witnesses talk about the corruption of a judge and state secretary**  

**Journalist on trial for fighting corruption**  
http://www.royalgazette.com/opinion/article/20180328/journalist-on-trial-for-fighting-corruption&template=mobileart

**Corruption and fake news: Killing Nigerians with misinformation**  

**Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff condemns Netflix over corruption series**  
DRUG TRAFFICKING

‘The Invisibles’: Colombia’s New Generation of Drug Traffickers
Jeremy McDermott – InSight Crime: 15 March 2018

Colombia’s long-running civil conflict always has been entwined with drug trafficking, sometimes fueling the fighting and more often funding it. Now, as the conflict diminishes, the face of drug trafficking also is changing. Colombia’s drug lords recognize that anonymity is a better defense than the weapons of a private army, and that violence is bad for business.

https://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/invisibles-colombias-new-generation-drug-traffickers/

FBI bust aims to shut drug traffickers out of their super-encrypted communication networks
Kristina Davis – San Diego Union-Tribune: 15 March 2018

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation has charged a Canadian executive with racketeering conspiracy and conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of drugs. His company, Phantom Secure, produces highly encrypted mobile devices that it markets to drug traffickers and criminal organizations worldwide. The arrest is part of an international effort to sever drug organizations from their secure communication networks.


For more on this theme:

Latin America’s biggest port just made its largest cocaine seizure ever — the latest bust in a thriving drug-trafficking corridor

Spain Arrests Alleged Colombia Drug Kingpin Hiding in the Limelight

Albanian parliament opens inquiry into former minister accused of drug trafficking

Italian businessman named by murdered Slovak journalist held on drugs charge
https://www.thelocal.it/20180313/antonino-vadala-jan-kuciak-murdered-journalist-slovakia-mafia

Harsh laws and high usage: France looks to reform its drug policies

Belarus to join strategic partnership against crime and drugs in Eastern Europe

Germany expects greater quantities of cocaine to flood into Europe
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-drugs-idUSKBN1A91WP

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

In a Horrifying New Twist, Myanmar Elephants Are Being Poached For Their Skin
Brian Handwerk – Smithsonian: 20 March 2018

Research by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute into the coexistence of humans and elephants — an effort to stem elephant habitat loss in Asia — has revealed a new wave of
elephant poaching for the animals’ skin. Compared with Africa, poaching had not been as big a problem in Asia because a relatively small number of Asian elephants have tusks.


**The world’s most trafficked mammal: Hong Kong shops defy ban on trade in pangolin scales**
Joanna Chiu – Hong Kong Free Press: 24 March 2018

Pangolin have become the most trafficked mammal in the world. Although sales of products made from the endangered animal were banned two years ago, pangolin scales and meat were found to be widely available in Hong Kong shops. Demand is high because — unsupported by scientific evidence — the scales are believed to have medicinal properties, and the flesh is considered a delicacy.


For more on this theme:

**Police say more help needed to combat illegal animal trafficking**

**Indonesia Using High Tech To Fight Against Animal Trafficking**

**How illegal charcoal fuels war and harms the environment**

**Facebook, Google, others target online wildlife trafficking**

**Sniffing out poachers in the Mara to save animals**

#TBT: China’s Role in the International Illegal Wildlife Trade

**Endangered: 10 animal species on the very edge of extinction**
https://www.sde.co.ke/article/2001274437/endangered-10-animal-species-on-the-very-edge-of-extinction

**Critically Endangered Vaquitas Have a Shot at Avoiding Extinction if Humans Will Stop Killing Them**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In Niger’s Desert, Europe’s Migration Crackdown Pinches Wallets
Nellie Peyton – Thomson Reuters Foundation: 27 March 2018

Niger’s government has cracked down on human smuggling at the behest of the European Union, slowing to a trickle the number of African migrants passing through places like Agadez. The crackdown has had severe economic implications for this ancient trading post on the southern edge of the Sahara desert, where an estimated 6,000 people were employed in the migrant economy and countless others relied on the money generated by the trade.

http://news.trust.org/item/20180327003253-3wunx/

ANALYSIS - Is landmark UK law falling short in fight against modern slavery?
Ana Ionova – Thomson Reuters Foundation: 19 March 2018

Anti-slavery activists say that a highly touted British law intended to fight human trafficking has not lived up to its promise. The law includes life sentences for convicted traffickers and requires companies to examine their supply chains for forced labor. But three years after the law was passed, large numbers of victims keep turning up.

https://news.trust.org/item/20180319020004-uhk0y

For more on this theme:

At the core of the protection mechanism for migrants returning from the DR
https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/core-protection-mechanism-migrants-returning-dr

A Voodoo Curse on Human Traffickers

No data on fight against human trafficking

Human trafficking in Pakistan

Report brings human trafficking racket to a halt

Human trafficking, modern-day slavery
http://www.miamiherald.com/living/health-fitness/article206847674.html

Building synergies to prevent and combat human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation

Wage war on human trafficking too!
https://guardian.ng/opinion/wage-war-on-human-trafficking-too/
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Preventing the Balkanization of the Internet
A. Michael Spence and Fred Hu – Council on Foreign Relations: 28 March 2018

Digital innovations have reshaped the world and the economy, but increasing risks such as near-monopoly power by some online platforms, threats to critical infrastructure and theft or exposure of personal information by hackers, have made it necessary to better regulate the internet. However, international agreement is needed to avoid an economy-damaging Balkanization of regulations.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/preventing-balkanization-internet

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Governance and Ownership of Internet of Things (IoT)

(Global, Canada) Ottawa conference creates roadmap towards Internet governance amid admissions there’s a long way to go

(U.S.) Beyond Amazon: States Prepare to Pounce on Online Sales Taxes

INTERNET FREEDOM

How a Controversial New Sex-Trafficking Law Will Change the Web
Nitasha Tiku – Wired: 22 March 2018

The U.S. Senate passed a bill that changes a rule that shields website operators from liability for content posted on their sites by others. The purpose of the law is to stop online personals or dating sites from being used for sex trafficking, particularly of minors. Internet freedom advocates are concerned that the new law will restrict the freedom that has allowed the internet to flourish.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FOSTA: The New Anti-Sex-Trafficking Legislation May Not End the Internet, But It’s Not Good Law Either

(Europe, Global) The latest in Big Tech: Censorship
https://www.politico.eu/article/opinion-big-tech-censorship-google-transparency/

(Pakistan) The Hard Limits of Pakistan’s Media Freedom
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

How Europe’s new privacy rule is reshaping the internet
Russell Brandom – The Verge: 28 March 2018

A data protection rule passed by the European Union in 2016 and scheduled to go into effect this month is changing the way internet companies manage and share their customers’ data, requiring explicit consent and a means for users to revoke that consent. Although the law applies only to the data of EU citizens, the international nature of the internet means that users everywhere will be affected.


For more on this theme:

(Global) In 2018, Internet of Things Security Spending to Reach $1.5 Billion Worldwide

(U.S.) On the web, privacy in peril
https://today.law.harvard.edu/web-privacy-peril/

(Europe) Apple unveils new privacy tools ahead of EU law

(Global) A long awaited privacy awakening is here

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

A practical guide to how blockchain could end corruption in South Africa
Jeffrey Dinham – Quartz: 27 March 2018

Cryptocurrencies have the potential to revolutionize finance and banking, but the blockchain mechanism also could be used to fight corruption by providing an open, public ledger of all government transactions that can be tracked to the public officials responsible.


For more on this theme:

(Canada) The Government of Canada announces policy updates to advance digital services for Canadians

(U.S.) Trump cyber deterrence policy coming in ‘fits and starts’

(Global) UNESCO promotes Internet Universality indicators to advance SDGs at WSIS Forum 2018
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Building the smart city: 8 things that matter
Benson Chan – Network World: 27 March 2018

Building the smart cities of the future will require multilayered contributions from all sectors. New types of public-private partnerships, information sharing and cooperation are keys to the more-connected future.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Institute to Develop Cybersecurity Hub for Manufacturing

(U.S.) New York City is launching public cybersecurity tools to keep residents from getting hacked
https://techcrunch.com/2018/03/29/nyc-secure-new-york-cybersecurity-app-de-blasio/

(Australia) Public-private cybersecurity centre open for business in Sydney

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

US trade report lays bare Chinese government cyber-espionage
Bill Gertz – Asia Times: 26 March 2018

A recent U.S. government trade report details how China has systematically targeted the networks of American and other foreign companies with cyber attacks to steal technology, data and other intellectual property. Based on cyber-theft loss estimates in the hundreds of billions of dollars, the U.S. has announced that it will impose punitive tariffs on some Chinese goods.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) Stopping China’s Intellectual Property Theft: What Trump Can Learn From His Predecessors

(Global, U.S., China) China’s Alleged ‘Intellectual Property’ Theft Is Much Alarmism About Nothing

(U.S., Global) 5 tips for guarding your company against intellectual property threats
https://www.techrepublic.com/article/5-tips-for-guarding-your-company-against-intellectual-property-threats/
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

With Its New ‘White Book,’ France Looks to Become a World-Class Player in Cyber Space
Boris Toucas – War on the Rocks: 29 March 2018

In February 2018, France released its “Strategic Review of Cyberdefense,” a document that encapsulates the country’s cyber doctrine. The report underscores France’s determination to be a factor in the cyber realm, including its resolve to use force when necessary to defend its cyberspace.


For more on this theme:

(Saudi Arabia, MENA) Four key tech-driven trends: Survey

(Indonesia) Are you the Disruptor or the Disrupted - Report on the Indonesia OpenGov Leadership Forum 2018

(U.K.) Cybersecurity and its role in delivering digital public services to citizens

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

20 hackers arrested in EUR 1 million bank phishing scam
Eurojust/Europol: 29 March 2018

Romanian and Italian police arrested 20 people on charges of banking fraud after a two-year investigation that was supported by Eurojust, Europol and its Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce. The organized crime group harvested online banking information from victims using spear-phishing emails impersonating tax authorities to net more than 1 million euros.


For more on this theme:

(Malaysia) Malaysian central bank says foiled attempted cyber-heist

(Spain, Romania, EU) Newsbite: Criminal behind €1 billion cyber-bank robberies arrested in Spain

(India, U.S.) Terror discussed at India-US meet
INFORMATION SHARING

Threat Intelligence Sharing Essential for Healthcare Cybersecurity
Elizabeth Snell – Cybersecurity News: 26 March 2018

The health care sector has become a frequent target of cyber attacks, necessitating a rapid response. Not only must patient data be protected, but connected medical devices and systems must be secured from life-threatening cyber intrusions. Sharing threat intelligence is critical to protecting health care in the cyber realm.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Cybersecurity partnerships: Strength in numbers

(U.S.) Universities Launch Joint Cyber Security Operations Center

(U.K., Europe) Business unaware of scale of cyber threat

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Record of FPRI Scholars on Threats to the Electric Grid
Lawrence Husick – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 27 March 2018

Despite hundreds of reports of cyber threats to U.S. critical infrastructure since the 9/11 attacks, often characterized as “wake-up calls,” neither the government nor the private sector has taken substantive actions, and the threat remains pervasive. This report provides an FPRI overview and recommendations.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Cyber attack cripples Atlanta and security experts shudder

(U.S.) Information Sharing: 15 Years of ISAC Partnerships in Protecting Cyber, Physical Infrastructure Security

(U.S.) How to protect our critical infrastructure IT systems while we replace our legacy control systems
ISIS

Two Sisters by Åsne Seierstad review – slow-burn Isis tragedy
Emma Graham Harrison – The Guardian: 27 March 2018

The book Two Sisters, by best-selling Norwegian author Åsne Seierstad, describes the compelling, real-life tale of two teenage girls lured by ISIS from Norway to Syria, and the horrors they encountered.


Isis-inspired terror attacks in Europe give the impression it’s still a global force.
It’s not
Patrick Cockburn – The Independent: 24 March 2018

Although ISIS continues to succeed at generating publicity, the terror group is far less significant than it was three years ago, when it had territory, money and resources. The March 23 attack in the south of France by a lone gunman who claimed an allegiance to ISIS proves little about the terror group’s strength or global reach.


For more on this theme:

Iraq and Syria win wars against ISIS, but U.S. and Turkey will not leave

Iraqi forces apprehend Islamic State’s desert emir in Anbar

Rising from the rubble: ‘If we don’t rebuild Mosul, maybe Isis will come back’

Coalition acknowledges killing at least 855 civilians since start of ISIS war

Turkey’s Erdogan says operations begin in Iraq’s Sinjar region

US designates ISIS chemical weapons expert from France as terrorist

Iraq’s oil production not affected by war against IS: Abadi
https://www.iraqinews.com/business-iraqi-dinar/iraqs-oil-production-not-affected-by-war-against-is-abadi/
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. Strikes Qaeda Target in Southern Libya, Expanding Shadow War There

A United States drone strike against al-Qaïda terrorists in Libya represents a possible expansion of the counterterrorism campaign there. The strike killed two terrorists associated with al-Qaïda’s branch in northwestern Africa and occurred in southwest Libya, a haven for extremist groups operating in the Sahel region of Algeria, Chad, Mali and Niger, according to the U.S. Africa Command.


US military will not pursue Taliban into Pakistan
Bill Roggio – FDD’s Long War Journal: 20 March 2018

The U.S. military will no longer pursue Taliban and allied jihadist fighters from Afghanistan into Pakistan, according to a Pentagon spokesman. Previously, under its “inherent right to self-defense” policy, the U.S. had defended its right to pursue Taliban forces retreating into Pakistan, despite Pakistan’s objections.


For more on this theme:
France Suffered Its 20th Islamist Attack Since 2014. Experts Explain How Italy Stayed Terror-free

Russia threat and terror the focus of security review

Bodies of 134 victims of Soviet terror in Ukraine given proper burial

From Hero To Terrorist? Ukraine’s Savchenko Refutes Terror Charges, But Admits To ‘Absurd Plans’
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-savchenko-terror-plot-parliament-immunity-vote/29113701.html

2018 Terrorist Attacks
https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/terrorist-attacks/

Kosovo court acquits imam accused of terror, hate speech
https://apnews.com/5d1b13cb21c7460aa70a0ae816068049/Kosovo-court-acquits-imam-accused-of-terror,-hate-speech
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Jihadist Madrasat in Italy: A Background
Lorenzo Vidino and Silvia Carenzi – Italian Institute for International Political Studies:
27 March 2018

An Italian anti-terrorism operation uncovered an effort by an Egyptian national to radicalize children in southern Italy. Inside a small, unauthorized place of worship named Al Dawa, the Egyptian national made use of ISIS propaganda that teaches children to loathe “disbelievers” and encourages them to swear an oath of allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. How does the incident fit into Italy’s jihadist landscape? Is it something novel?

http://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/jihadist-madrasat-italy-background-19984

Australia, Asean leaders warn of encrypted messaging apps as Southeast Asia vows terror cooperation
South China Morning Post: 17 March 2018

Participants at an ASEAN-Australia summit in Sydney were warned about terror groups using the dark web to recruit and radicalize internet users. “The use of encrypted messaging apps by terrorists and criminals is potentially the most significant degradation of intelligence capability in modern times,” Australia’s Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said. The Asian leaders were advised to join forces to counter the threat.


For more on this theme:

Radicalization in the Classroom: A Continuing Problem in European Schools

Secret Court Documents: Kids Radicalized By Age 2

Violent extremism reopens the conversation about women and peace

“Meet Vincent”: Preventing Radicalization that Leads to Violence

Isis fanatic who tried to radicalise ‘army of children’ for London terror attacks jailed for life

African-American Muslims have a successful counter-radicalization formula
http://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/379562-african-american-muslims-have-a-successful-counter-radicalization

Would-be teen terrorist posted video of Lee Rigby’s killer on messaging app
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

How Belgium Overcame the Threat from Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters
Thomas Renard and Rik Coolsaet – RUSI: 22 March 2018

Belgium has developed a comprehensive system of law enforcement and prevention to help manage the threat of returning foreign fighters. This includes mandatory pretrial detention, three- to five-year prison sentences with radicalization monitoring and specialized disengagement programs, and continued monitoring and counseling on release.

https://rusi.org/commentary/how-belgium-overcame-threat-returning-foreign-terrorist-fighters

For more on this theme:
Assessing Assumed Italian Exceptionalism Vis-à-Vis Jihadi Terrorism

Rome on high alert for Easter after series of terrorism raids and arrests by Italian police

Virtual Recruitment of Foreign Fighters and Their Threat Upon Return: The Case of the Peshmerga and the People's Protection Units
http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/virtual-recruitment-foreign-fighters-and-their-threat-upon-return-case-peshmerga-and

UK to remain on high terror alert for at least two years, sources say

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Centralizing Human Rights in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
Fionnuala Ní Aoláin and Martin Scheinin – Just Security: 16 March 2018

Two experts on human rights offer their thoughts on revising the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. They argue for meaningful support and implementation of the strategy’s human rights dimension, one of its central pillars.


For more on this theme:
UN Rapporteur Fears Counterterrorism Measures May Undermine Civil Society

2017: a turning point for counterterrorism in Australia

Dramatic night-vision video captures US raid to kill ISIS fighters

The US is Focusing on Counterterrorism in Libya, at Human Rights’ Expense

Kaspersky’s ‘Slingshot’ report burned an ISIS-focused intelligence operation
https://www.cyberscoop.com/kaspersky-slingshot-isis-operation-socom-five-eyes/
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

HEALTH SECURITY

Rise in tuberculosis highlights broader global health security concerns
Jennifer Nuzzo and Diane Meyer – The Hill: 22 March 2018

The recent surge in tuberculosis cases in Venezuela has caused concern because it indicates that even infectious diseases that were thought to be well under control can re-emerge as a threat even in relatively advanced countries, particularly if public health conditions deteriorate due to economic crisis or war. This is a concern because the political support for funding to combat the spread of infectious diseases is lagging as the Ebola and Zika epidemics fade from memory.


For more on this theme:

The art of public health messaging
https://www.ft.com/content/f412dd5a-3335-11e8-b5bf-23cb17fd1498

U.S. at critical juncture with Global Health Security Agenda

Brooke Courtney: how do experts recommend strengthening U.S. health security?
https://federalnewsradio.com/federal-drive/2018/03/1843307/

Ministry of Health launches 5-year National Action Plan for Health Security