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
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

What Najib Razak’s corruption trial means for Malaysia – and the region
James Chin – The Conversation: 3 April 2019
The corruption trial of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is scheduled to begin after a two-month delay. The trial has implications for Malaysia as well as for the region because activists see the trial as a benchmark for their own corruption battles.

Nigeria’s small businesses want government help, but corruption is draining it away
Matthew Page – Quartz: 2 April 2019
Nigeria hosts Africa’s largest economy, which is largely driven by small businesses. Yet, doing business in Nigeria is exceedingly difficult. The programs trying to help are being pilfered by the corrupt officials running them.

For more on this theme:
Colombia’s Inspector General: ‘Corruption Is the New Cartel’
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/colombias-inspector-general-corruption-new-cartel

Kenyan Leader Vows to Press on With Crackdown on Corruption

Ex-Croatia PM jailed after court ups his corruption sentence
https://www.apnews.com/070c3ebcb3994e06a32b08c23a60460d

How To Strengthen Your Anti-Corruption Compliance Program
https://www.brinknews.com/how-to-strengthen-your-anti-corruption-compliance-program/

From Potholes to Procurement: Ukraine’s Chronic Corruption Angers Voters

Romania lifts travel ban on former anti-corruption chief
https://www.dw.com/cda/en/romania-lifts-travel-ban-on-former-anti-corruption-chief/a-48193119

Turf issues in fighting corruption

In Panama, corruption looms over May presidential elections
https://theguardian.com/world/2019/04/16/in-panama-corruption-looms-over-may-presidential-elections

Citizens encouraged to stand up against corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Research shows cocaine trafficking adapts to law enforcement efforts
University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa – Phys.org: 1 April 2019

A new study led by The University of Alabama reveals that smugglers who move cocaine through Central America are responding to law enforcement activity by finding new routes and using new methods. Government strategies aimed at intercepting cocaine force the smugglers to expand the geographic area available for trafficking, which means the drug continues to reach the United States.


China Bans All Types of Fentanyl, Cutting Supply of Deadly Drug to U.S. and Fulfilling Pledge to Trump
Steven Lee Myers and Abby Goodnough – The New York Times: 1 April 2019

China has announced that starting May 1 it will regulate all fentanyl-related drugs as a class of controlled substances. It is a change United States officials have long advocated as a way to stem the flow of lethal opioids from the Asian nation.


For more on this theme:

Gang in Mexico Offers ‘Drug Menu’ Via Encrypted WhatsApp

Cocaine production ‘through the roof,’ moves through U.S. to meet expanding global demand

Peru’s Narco-Candidates Under Spotlight Due to Profligate Governor

Kyrgyzstan, UNODC discuss cooperation in fight against illicit drug trafficking
https://akipress.com/news:617989

More Mexico plane crashes signal surge in cocaine traffic from Colombia

The real driving forces behind Myanmar’s opium trade

Are drug trafficking gangs increasingly using cruise line passengers as mules?

Sri Lanka: three-track approach to drug problem
http://www.newagebd.net/article/69101/sri-lanka-three-track-approach-to-drug-problem

New Mexico to become 24th state to decriminalize marijuana
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Vietnam’s Empty Forests**  
*Stephen Nash – The New York Times: 1 April 2019*

Vietnam is a country rife with biological diversity, but wildlife trafficking is stripping the nation of its rich wildlife.  

**Brazil: Bolsonaro’s threat to the Amazon**  
*Heriberto Araújo – The Global Americans: 29 March 2019*

The rise of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro spells potential disaster for the Amazon in Brazil. His policies are stripping away protections and putting the rainforest in further danger.  
https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/03/brazil-bolsonaros-threat-to-the-amazon/

*For more on this theme:*

**This Tarantula Became a Scientific Celebrity. Was It Poached From the Wild?**

**China to enhance wildlife protection in 2019**

**US Government Lists Kenya as Global Crime Hotspot**

**Capital Connection: Illicit trade of wildlife and the criminals behind this trafficking**

**Amendments to law being mulled to deal with online illegal wildlife trade, Parliament told**

**Rare vipers are being poached in Kenya — but some people are grateful**

**Illicit Trade of Tiger Geckos propels Extinction**

**‘Dire concern’ for elephants’ future**
https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/dire-concern-for-elephants-future-20495250

**Karnataka Forest Department prepare to curb illegal wildlife trade online**
https://www.traffic.org/news/karnataka-forest-department-prepare-to-curb-illegal-wildlife-trade-online/

**TRAFFIC supports Asia-Africa Customs Workshop on improved collaboration**

**ASIAN to Strengthen Efforts to Curb Illegal Wildlife Trade**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Migrant smugglers ‘using more seaworthy vessels’
Ivan Martin – Times of Malta: 4 April 2019

According to a recent report that maps smugglers, their networks and the flow of their profits, migrant traffickers are using safer vessels to get closer to mainland Europe and Malta.


Smugglers Using Kidnapped Children to Get Migrants Into US Illegally
Colin Fredericson – The Epoch Times: 4 April 2019

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen accused smugglers of using sick children “as pawns” to gain entry into the United States.


For more on this theme:

Fighting Sex Trafficking at the Truck Stop

WTTC launches global taskforce on human trafficking

When trafficking victims are shackled by debt, can financial institutions help?

Plan to implement Viet Nam – UK anti-human trafficking deal issued by PM

EU’s migration policy destroys Niger’s smuggling economy
https://news-decoder.com/2019/04/03/niger-eu-migration/

Video Shows Children Smuggled Across Razor Wire, Wading Through Cold Water At Mexican Border To Reach U.S.

Safe harbours: the cities defying the EU to welcome migrants

Removal of rescue missions led to increase in clandestine arrivals in Malta

Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania Seek Solutions to Irregular Migration on Southern Route
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Amazon.com should share web domain name rights, Brazil says  
*Reuters: 3 April 2019*

Online retail giant Amazon and the governments of eight South American countries have been given a final deadline to reach an agreement over how to use the “.amazon” web address extension. What will happen next?


For more on this theme:

- **(Global)** Zuckerberg’s ‘new rules’ for the internet must move from words to actions  

- **(Global)** Will PDP 3.0 Save the Multi-Stakeholder Model?  
  http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190401_dwill_pdp_3_save_the_multi_stakeholder_model/

- **(Global)** International regulation is needed for the digital world  

INTERNET FREEDOM

Australia To Criminalize Failure To Remove Violent Content From Internet Platforms  
*Francesca Paris – National Public Radio: 4 April 2019*

In response to the New Zealand mosque shooting, Australia’s Parliament passed legislation that could imprison social media executives if their platforms livestream violence.


For more on this theme:

- **(Russia)** Russia Cracks Down on VPNs, Orders Them to Blacklist Websites  

- **(Russia)** Why Russia Might Shut Off the Internet  

- **(China)** First individual punished for using VPN to evade internet censorship  
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

New tools in the battle against online data misuse
Community Research and Development Information Service – Phys.org; 1 April 2019
The European Union-funded project Privacy Flag has created helpful tools to promote privacy and personal data protection.

For more on this theme:
(ASEAN) How ASEAN Can Effectively Address the Data Privacy Conundrum

(Singapore) Singapore sets up committee to review public sector data security, but stands firm on PDPA exemption

(Global) Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee wants to give you your data back

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Russia’s Military Undertaking Growing Role in Creation of ‘Sovereign Internet’
Roger McDermott – The Jamestown Foundation; 4 April 2019
Russia’s military is becoming more involved with the country’s bid for a national “sovereign” internet.

For more on this theme:
(Azerbaijan) Azerbaijan ranks in top 5 among CIS countries in Global Cybersecurity Index
https://www.azernews.az/nation/148339.html

(Nigeria) Nigeria: Govt to Create Awareness On Public Internet Access Policy
https://allafrica.com/stories/201904040522.html

(Myanmar) Myanmar hosts workshop on cyber security policy and diplomacy
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

AU urges Africa to strengthen global presence to accelerate digital transformation
Xinhua: 29 March 2019

To speed up its own digital transformation, Africa needs to participate in global negotiations on issues related to data, cyber security and artificial intelligence, according to the African Union (AU). “Cooperation across borders, industries and sectors, and the development of effective digital policies is essential for the future of Africa’s digital transformation,” the AU said.

For more on this theme:

(Global) Amazon is making a late entry into the internet satellite race
https://qz.com/1587506/jeff-bezos-amazon-to-build-internet-satellites/

(U.S.) Public-private joint effort is needed to prevent a cyber Pearl Harbor

(U.S.) A necessity, not a luxury: How public-private partnerships are extending broadband access to rural areas

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The EU’s New Copyright Laws Won’t ‘Wreck the Internet’
Eleonora Rosati – Slate: 1 April 2019

Critics of the European Union’s Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market claim it will harm free speech and be technically impossible to comply with, ultimately destroying the internet as we know it. But the author argues that it will have the opposite effect, making legal positions safer and protecting users.

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S.) Why China’s Intellectual Property Theft Is a Concern for National Security

(U.K.) Hackers beat university cyber-defences in two hours

(U.S.) MIT Cuts Ties With Huawei & ZTE, Citing Cyber Security Risks
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Google launches new initiative to improve Cuba’s internet infrastructure
Jacob Atkins – Contxto: 1 April 2019

Google is teaming up with ETECSA, Cuba’s telecommunications monopoly, to bring faster internet access to the island. Cuba’s high internet costs and excruciatingly slow speeds combine to give the country one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the Western Hemisphere.


For more on this theme:
(China) Smart society key to growth, says cyberspace official
http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201904/03/WS5ca41d8ea3104842260b4285.html

(Pakistan) Technology transforming governance in Pakistan: World Bank

(India) How A Tribal Village’s Digital Push Empowered Its Women

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Is Monitoring the Dark Web the Best Way to Slow Down Cybercrime?
TechBullion: 2 April 2019

Cyber crime starts and ends with stolen information. Implementing lessons learned over the darknet could make the stolen data worthless, eliminating the threat.

https://www.techbullion.com/is-monitoring-the-dark-web-the-best-way-to-slow-down-cybercrime/

For more on this theme:
(Turkey) Turkish police to receive cybersecurity training amid surge in cyber crimes

(Global) The war between cybersecurity and cybercrime will be fought by artificial intelligence

(Global) Cyber attacks increasingly exploiting supply chain weaknesses
INFORMATION SHARING

FBI needs better data on cyber crime victims
Mark Rockwell – FCW: 2 April 2019

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation is largely failing to notify cyber crime victims of their rights in a timely manner following a “cyber intrusion,” according to a new report from the U.S. Justice Department’s inspector general. At times, typos and other small errors can cause long delays in the notification process.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) DHS Official Asks for More Adoption of Information Sharing Frameworks
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/dhs-official-asks-for-more-adoption-of-information-sharing-frameworks/

(U.S., Global) Growing threat information sharing beyond detect and respond
https://www.scmagazineuk.com/growing-threat-information-sharing-beyond-detect-respond/article/1578716

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Iran conducted ‘major cyber assault’ on key UK infrastructure
Alistair Bunkall – Sky News: 3 April 2019

Attacks in late December 2018 on key elements of the United Kingdom’s infrastructure, including the post office, local government networks and banks, is believed to have been perpetrated by Iranian hackers.

https://news.sky.com/story/iran-conducted-major-cyber-assault-on-key-uk-infrastructure-11676686

For more on this theme:
(Global) Could We Blow Up the Internet?

(U.S.) Stopping the Flow of Cyber Breaches
https://www.afcea.org/content/stopping-flow-cyber-breaches

(Estonia, NATO) Estonia to host the world’s largest cyber exercise
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Congolese President Cites Threat from ISIS, Seeks US Help to Fight Terrorism
Ashish Kumar Sen – Atlantic Council: 4 April 2019

Félix Tshisekedi, president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fears that ISIS will take a strong hold in Africa after being pushed out of Syria and Iraq. He is seeking a strategic partnership with the U.S. to address the challenge of terrorism.


ISIS’s West African Offshoot Is Following al Qaeda’s Rules for Success
Philip Obaji Jr. – Foreign Policy: 2 April 2019

Unlike ISIS in Syria and Iraq, the terrorist group’s offshoot in West Africa, the Islamic State West Africa Province, appears to be growing stronger. Taking a page from al-Qaida’s book, the group is gaining influence by cultivating relationships with the population rather than brutally suppressing people and by spreading out leadership roles so a top-down killing strategy is unlikely to destroy them.


For more on this theme:

The American Intervention Against ISIS Is Just Another Chapter of an Endless War

Surviving ISIS: Young Yazidi conscripts begin long path to healing

ISIS Has Not Been Defeated. It’s Alive and Well in Southern Syria.
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/04/03/isis-has-not-been-defeated-its-alive-and-well-in-southern-syria/

Why ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is likely hiding in Anbar, Iraq

Inside the last days of ISIS
https://video.vice.com/en_us/video/inside-the-last-days-of-isis/5c9d3c9abe407777fb43bc963

US-backed fighters clash with IS militants in eastern Syria
https://www.apnews.com/ae7034dfb4d743048f8d4276ae950c72

ISIS 3.0: The More Virulent Threat
https://lobelog.com/isis-3-0-the-more-virulent-threat/

No, Islamic State Isn’t Defeated
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

How a ‘smarter’ Islamic state is quietly taking over swathes of Syria after Isis defeat
Richard Hall – The Independent: 2 April 2019

Al-Qaida offshoot Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has quietly cemented its power in northern Syria and now rules over 3 million people. After forcing out rival rebel groups in the northern Idlib region of Syria earlier this year, the group “has imposed its control over all aspects of life in the province.”

Where Will the Next Islamic State Rise?
Bobby Ghosh – Bloomberg: 1 April 2019

Running a “caliphate” came with all the trappings of statehood, including numerous perks. In addition to lending ISIS prestige, it generated revenue and proved to be a strong recruitment tool. Other groups are likely to try to establish similar states to gain these advantages and more.

For more on this theme:
The Hunt: ISIS vs. Al Qaida

A new report shows a different cryptocurrency path for al-Qaeda and ISIS

The Escalation in Relations between Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen and the Islamic State
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2370/Escalation_in_Relations_Al-Shabab_%20Al-Mujahideen_Islamic_State#gsc.tab=0

The many and different faces of terror
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-many-and-different-faces-of-terror/article26714414.ece

Hamas tightens grip on Gaza, fails to break Israel blockade
https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/despite-setbacks-hamas-grip-on-gaza-has-never-been-tight-er/2019/04/01/4066e95e-5445-11e9-aa83-504f086bf5d6_story.html

Kenya: The Hidden Cost of Al-Shabaab's Campaign in North-Eastern Kenya
https://allafrica.com/stories/201904040208.html

Boko Haram's Den: Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria

The Trump Administration Is Making Hezbollah Stronger
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/04/04/the-trump-administration-is-making-hezbollah-stronger/

Peace in the shadow of the Taliban?
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

ISIS and the rise of gangster jihadism
Lawrence Goodman – Brandeis University: 2 April 2019

European criminal gangs are a new recruiting ground for ISIS and other jihadi terrorist groups, a new paper by terrorism expert Jytte Klausen argues. The author uses the term "gangster jihadism" to describe the nexus between the criminal underworld and radical Islamic groups.

https://www.brandeis.edu/now/2019/april/gangs-jihadism-klausen.html

YouTube's Product Chief on Online Radicalization and Algorithmic Rabbit Holes

Neal Mohan, YouTube chief product officer, denied that the company has a business interest in pushing users toward extremist content. "It is not the case that ‘extreme’ content drives a higher version of engagement or watch time than content of other types," he said. He also reiterated that YouTube is so vast that it’s difficult to balance user safety and information integrity with concerns about freedom of speech.


For more on this theme:

ISIS Caliphate Alive & Well Online
https://clarionproject.org/isis-caliphate-alive-well-online/

Students in Syria are a textbook case for post-Islamic State reeducation

Does Australia have the capacity to rehabilitate IS returnees if they are permitted to return?

Uhuru Outlines Plan to Rehabilitate Al Shabaab Returnees

Did Central Asia’s Jihadists Challenge Al Qaeda?

Terrorist Violence Spikes in Mali
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/terrorist-violence-spikes-in-mali

A Public-Health Approach to Countering Violent Extremism
https://www.justsecurity.org/63455/a-public-health-approach-to-countering-violent-extremism/

The future of Montreal’s anti-radicalization centre is in limbo

What Can Make Displaced People More Vulnerable to Extremism? A Study in Afghanistan Offers Clues for Better Policies in the World’s Violent Conflict Zones
https://isnblog.ethz.ch/security/what-can-make-displaced-people
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Families Of ISIS Fighters Crowd Camps In Syria
Jane Arraf – National Public Radio; 30 March 2019

The U.S. and Syrian-Kurdish forces have driven ISIS out of Syria. Now, women and children numbering in the tens of thousands — the families of ISIS fighters — are in an overcrowded, remote camp in Syria awaiting decisions on their fates.


From Caliphate to International Criminal Tribunal? ISIS detainees raise complicated questions under international law
Genevieve Zingg – The Defense Post: 1 April 2019

ISIS committed many international crimes. What should become of the ISIS detainees? Are states shunning international law as they consider stripping citizenship from foreign fighters?

https://thedefensepost.com/2019/04/01/isis-detainees-international-law-opinion/

For more on this theme:
In a Crowded Syria Tent Camp, the Women and Children of ISIS Wait in Limbo

ISIS fighters, associates must be held ‘accountable’ for decisions, mother of slain journalist James Foley says

British Islamic State fighter: ‘We would never have come if we’d known the realities of Isis’

Irish ISIS bride repatriation efforts to be fast tracked

Former ISIS Bride Pleads For ‘Second Chance’ To Return To U.S.

Australia works to repatriate terrorist’s 3 children
https://www.apnews.com/f76e4fc05524d4bf95863272c7dbf

All In The Family: ISIS Edition

The Red Cross Wants to Send Hundreds of Children of Islamic State Fighters Home
http://time.com/5563260/red-cross-children-islamic-state-return/

The uncertain future of the children of ISIS fighters
https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/04/02/inenglish/1554200951_824451.html