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
  Counterterrorism Strategies

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT
  Dealing With Disasters
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Azerbaijani Government Rejects Report Of Slush Fund To Bribe European Politicians
*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 5 September 2017*

The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) reports that Azerbaijan’s ruling elite funneled up to $2.9 billion to pay bribes and make luxury purchases. OCCRP claims thousands of payments were made through four shell companies in the United Kingdom. The president of Azerbaijan refutes the claims.


Full report:
*The Azerbaijani Laundromat*

https://www.occrp.org/en/azerbaijanilaundromat/

Brazil police raids amid 2016 Olympics corruption probe
*BBC: 5 September 2017*

Investigations in France and Brazil offer hope that International Olympic Committee members will be held responsible for their actions in deciding who received the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. Brazilian police raided the home of the country’s Olympic Committee chief, who is suspected of buying votes to secure Rio’s bid to host the 2016 Games.


For more on this theme:

*Billionaire Who Accused Top Chinese Officials of Corruption Asks U.S. for Asylum*


*US Ambassador: Romania mustn’t backtrack on corruption fight*

https://www.apnews.com/99efba18153e4525b92a1c8f955243e2/US-Ambassador:-Romania-mustnt-backtrack-on-corruption-fight

*Pakistan’s anti-corruption agency starts criminal investigation into ex-PM, finance minister*


*Danish Says Corruption Holding Back Growth In Education*

http://www.tolonews.com/node/61756

*To check corruption, conduct joint surprise checks: Central Vigilance Commission to CBI*


*Corruption is a system*

http://www.egyptindependent.com/corruption-is-a-system/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Opioid Crisis Looms Over Job Market, Worrying Employers And Economists
Yuki Noguchi – NPR: 7 September 2017

Economists and business owners say opioid addiction is partly to blame for a drop in the percentage of working-age men in the labor force. Increasingly, employers are having difficulty filling jobs because males between 24 and 54 years old are failing drug tests.


Will Myanmar lead drug policy reform in Southeast Asia?
Renaud Cachia – Transnational Institute: 6 September 2017

Myanmar is not known for being progressive in its drug policies, but the times are changing.


For more on this theme:

Philippines: President Duterte’s Son Denies Links to Drugs Trade his Father Vowed to Fight
http://www.newsweek.com/philippines-president-dutertes-son-dismissed-allegations-links-drugs-trade-660886

Meth, coke and oil: A drug boom in the Texas shale patch

Attorney-at-law sees drug link to rising crime
https://www.barbadostoday.bb/2017/09/05/attorney-at-law-sees-drug-link-to-rising-crime/

Trouble in paradise: drug cartels cast shadow over Mexico’s top tourist havens

Brazilian police target gangs shipping cocaine to Europe

Nicaragua Claims No ‘Cartel’ Presence, But Past Cases Tell a Different Story
http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/nicaragua-claims-no-cartel-presence-but-past-cases-tell-a-different-story

The FARC’s Riches: Up to $580 Million in Annual Income

3  Return to Table of Contents
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

New TRAFFIC Study Lifts Lid on Central Africa Ivory Markets
TRAFFIC: 7 September 2017

Weak governance, corruption and shifting trade dynamics are significant factors undermining the control of ivory trafficking in five Central African countries, according to a new study by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.


DNA barcoding helps identify endangered species from market specimens of sharks and rays
Sue Palminteri – Mongabay: 6 September 2017

DNA barcode testing on commercial fin and gill samples showed that over 70 percent were from threatened species or sharks and rays.


For more on this theme:
Wildlife crime: why diverse data will drive better responses

Young Collectors, Traders Help Fuel a Boom in Ultra-Exotic Pets

Compel government contractors to use legal lumber - Forestry C’ssion official

Change attitude to help protect wildlife

No compensation for Hong Kong’s ivory traders ahead of total ban, says environment deputy

Unnatural Surveillance: How Online Data Is Putting Species at Risk
http://e360.yale.edu/features/unnatural-surveillance-how-online-data-is-putting-species-at-risk

Audio: Technologies that boost conservation efforts right now and in the future

Forest Governance: How Indonesia and Vietnam are Responding to Illegal Logging
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/forest-governance-how-indonesia-and-vietnam-are-responding-illegal-logging
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Why is Silicon Valley fighting a sex trafficking bill?
Olivia Solon and Sabrina Siddiqui – The Guardian: 7 September 2017

Oracle is one of the few companies in the tech industry to back a U.S. Senate bill that holds websites legally accountable for facilitating human trafficking. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act would amend a law that protects social networking sites and online platforms such as Google and Facebook from liability for content shared by those on the site.


Europe’s Flawed Thinking on Mediterranean Migration
Tim Eaton and Paul Melly – Chatham House: 5 September 2017

Increased border controls are quick fixes for a more serious problem. Without addressing long-term development and governing institutions in the Sahel, there is no way to stop the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean.

https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/europe-s-flawed-thinking-mediterranean-migration

For more on this theme:
Q&A: a new tool to help fight human trafficking

Swaziland church takes lead in fighting human trafficking, violence against women

How Delhi Police busted human trafficking racket using forged passports

Sri Lanka, Australia sign agreement to counter human trafficking
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/08/c_136593161.htm

Scotland details human trafficking hotspots in bid to end abuse

Why the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean is falling

Romania stops migrant ship on emerging Black Sea smuggling route

Why Europe’s Migrant Strategy Is an Illusion
http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/europe-seeks-to-shut-down-the-mediterranean-migration-route-a-1166228.html
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Former State Cyber Coordinator Says It Was a Mistake to Close His Office
Joseph Marks – Nextgov: 1 September 2017

Chris Painter, former U.S. State Department cyber coordinator, worries that the United States is stepping back from its role as a global cyber leader.


For more on this theme:

(Australia) Internet Australia broken, says tech millionaire Bevan Slattery

INTERNET FREEDOM

EU Presidency Pushing Other Member States for Substantial Internet Surveillance
CircleID: 6 September 2017

Estonia, the current president of the Council of the European Union, is calling on other EU members to increase their internet censorship, according to a leaked document.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20170906_eu_presidency_pushing_indiscriminate_internet_surveillance/

For more on this theme:

(Cuba) How does the Cuban government censor the internet? Report reveals some details

(China) China’s Internet Crackdown Is Another Step Toward ‘Digital Totalitarian State’

(Russia) Why many Russians have gladly agreed to online censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Blog: Security vs. Privacy: A Looming Showdown in Congress  
George I. Seffers – Signal: 7 September 2017

U.S. Intelligence officials are waiting for Congress to reauthorize section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows data collection on non-U.S. citizens on foreign soil. Previous abuses of the power and the sheer volume of data have Congress concerned.

https://www.afcea.org/content/security-vs-privacy-looming-showdown-congress

For more on this theme:

(Global) Smart tea kettle leaves your home Wi-Fi security in hot water  

(Global) What will the data security landscape look like in 2027?  
http://www.information-age.com/data-security-2027-123468426/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

EU looks to extra spending, diplomacy to bolster cyber security  
Reuters: 6 September 2017

The European Commission is looking to improve its cyber security, according to a report obtained by Reuters. The commission proposes increasing cooperation, diplomacy, funding and investment in technology to achieve its goals.


For more on this theme:

(EU) Brussels hopes for its cyber moment  

(U.S., China) How Much Work Should the US Put Into Developing Cyber Rules With China?  

(U.S.) Trump Administration Looking to ‘Real World’ Measures Against Cyber Enemies  
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Improving the Public-Private Cybersecurity Partnership
Justin S. Daniel – The Regulatory Review: 4 September 2017

The increase in state-sponsored cyber attacks has many companies concerned. Coordinated responses between public and private sectors may mean changing the way the two work together.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Hacking the human component of cyber readiness

(U.K.) GCHQ’s centre for cyber expertise makes commitment to Scotland’s security

(U.S.) How Did Huntsville Become the Fastest-Growing Tech Hub? Government

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

UK universities targeted by cyber-thieves
BBC: 5 September 2017

British universities suffered more than 1,152 cyber intrusions in 2016-17, many seeking intellectual property, a newspaper reported. “Universities drive forward a lot of the research and development in the U.K. Intellectual property takes years of know-how and costs a lot,” according to the director of cyber security at the University of Warwick in England.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Copyright Issues and Censorship - Key Reasons Why Internet Needs Blockchain

(China, Global) Foreign Firms Should Fear New Chinese Cyber-Law: Report

(Global) Which of your business assets are at risk?
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/open-economy/which-of-your-business-assets-are-at-risk/
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Iran Is Heavily Investing in Its Internet Infrastructure**

MohammadReza Azali – TechRasa: 3 September 2017

Iran-based TechRasa says Iran is investing in improvements to the country’s international internet bandwidth and its broadband network capacity.


For more on this theme:

(India) A cashless economy needs robust cyber security capabilities: KPMG India chief


(U.S.) Congress wrestles with gaps in cyber workforce


(New Zealand) Rural community fights for cell phone and internet connection


COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**WCD ministry announces portal to tackle cyber crime, harassment directed against women, children**

The Indian Express: 8 September 2017

Noting the crimes against women on the internet, the Indian Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry is creating a dedicated portal called the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Equifax says hackers accessed up to 143 million US consumers’ info


(U.S.) SEC chief says cyber crime risks are substantial, systemic


(Global) The hidden history of cyber-crime forums

INFORMATION SHARING

Threat Intelligence Collaboration on the Rise
Tara Seals – Infosecurity Magazine: 7 September 2017

According to data from AlienVault, there has been a significant increase in the public sharing of threat intelligence over the past two years.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) SEC Chairman Seeks More Cyber Risk Disclosure

(Global) Key elements of a secure, sensitive information sharing strategy

(U.S.) Maintaining Medical Device Cybersecurity in an Evolving Industry

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Threat of Virtual Terrorism Against Infrastructure is Growing
Daniel Wagner – The Huffington Post: 7 September 2017

The interconnectivity of systems and reliance on software exposes infrastructure to cyber terrorism. The older systems that help the infrastructure function were not developed with cyber security in mind.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-threat-of-virtual-terrorism-against-infrastructure_us_59b13db-de4b0c50640cd64e6

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Intrusion - but no attack - on U.S. energy grid is a warning, says former NSA official

(EU) EU defence ministers put to test in mock cyberattack

(U.S.) House panel advances measure to guard U.S. ports from cyberattacks
ISIS

Opportunity for ISIS as Sinai Civilians Sour on Cairo
Rob Richer – The Cipher Brief: 7 September 2017

The people of the Sinai in Egypt may be susceptible to ISIS recruitment because of the country’s heavy-handed tactics and seeming lack of interest in the region, says Rob Richer, former associate deputy director for operations at the Central Intelligence Agency.

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/article/middle-east/opportunity-isis-sinai-civilians-sour-cairo

ISIS Is Increasingly Trying to Attract Women Fighters In Iraq And Syria
Jack Moore – Newsweek: 4 September 2017

ISIS has changed its tune on female participation in fighting, calling for women to take up arms in its latest issue of the online magazine Rumiyah.


For more on this theme:

ISIS Is on Its Heels, but Fighting to the Death

Has Europe been infiltrated by another ISIS cell?
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/has-europe-been-infiltrated-by-another-isis-cell/article/2633727

Something else to fret about: ISIS mounting dirty bombs on drones

Inside America’s Secret War with ISIS

ISIS’ retreat accelerates, but reports of its demise are exaggerated

He Aimed to Fight in Syria. ISIS Had a Broader Plan: Southeast Asia

ISIS is Using Low-Tech Means to Inflict Large-Scale Terror
http://nationalinterest.org/feature/isis-using-low-tech-means-inflict-large-scale-terror-22190

Israeli experts point at a new ISIS trend: Poison in malls
http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Islamic-States-new-tactic-poisons-504443

ISIS Supporters Call for Attacks on Hurricane Harvey Relief Centers: Put Them ‘Out of Their Misery’

In the Philippines, is ISIS here to stay?
https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-09-06/philippines-isis-here-stay
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Journey of young Africans into violent extremism marked by poverty and deprivation: UNDP
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): 7 September 2017

Poverty, marginalization and bad governance are more important factors in the radicalization of young Africans than religion, according to a new study published by the UNDP. Many young Africans drawn to extremist groups know “little to nothing” about religious texts and interpretations. The survey, the first of its kind in Africa, profiled nearly 500 voluntary recruits to militant groups such as al-Shabab and Boko Haram.


Al-Qaeda ‘operational’ in Yemen, UN warns
Fatih Erel – Anadolu Agency: 5 September 2017

The United Nations warned that al-Qaida has taken advantage of the chaos in Yemen to become operational.


For more on this theme:

Free passage for ISIS: Was Hezbollah-backed deal a jab at Lebanese Army?

Six years after war on al Shabaab began, how safe are Kenyans from terrorism?
https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/09/06/six-years-after-war-on-al-shabaab-began-how-safe-are-kenyans-from_c1623060

Boko Haram, Divided And Without Territory, Doubles Its Civilian Killings in Five Months

While defeat of Isis dominates global attention, al-Qaeda strengthens in Syria

Yemeni al Qaeda leader calls for attacks in support of Myanmar’s Rohingya

Al-Qaeda’s Quiet Resurgence in India
http://moderntokyotimes.com/?p=7723

An ISIS-Al Qaeda Merger?
http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/an-isis-al-qaeda-merger

Stop Pretending That Orthodox Islam and Violence Aren’t Linked: Top Muslim Scholar
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

What motivates ISIS fighters — and those who fight against them
Jacqueline Howard – CNN: 4 September 2017

ISIS fighters and their opponents are motivated by three key factors, according to a report in the journal Nature Human Behavior. These factors could help in countering radicalization and fighter rehabilitation.


Why Women Leaders are Essential to the Continued Fight Against ISIS
Christina Gay – U.S. Department of State Blog: 5 September 2017

As ISIS is defeated, the role of women cannot be overstated in rebuilding Iraq and Syria free from violent extremism. Countering radicalization and terrorism requires equal partnership of men and women.


For more on this theme:

U.S. Takes Fight to ISIS on Cyber Battlefield
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/u-s-takes-fight-isis-cyber-battlefield

This School in Indonesia Is Suspected of Nurturing ISIS Child Jihadis

Op-Ed: Can ex-militants, and their redemption stories, stop anyone from joining Islamic State?

The next wave of extremists will be green
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-wp-green-comment-b4633e5a-8f4a-11e7-84c0-02cc069f2c37-20170901-story.html

3 ways the development sector can prevent violent extremism in Africa

How ISIS uses the internet to recruit new members (hint: It involves kittens)

ISIS Recruiting: It’s Not (Just) Ideological

Workshop discusses role of teachers in countering radicalisation in universities
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Intel official: Terror plots often raise concerns early
Deb Riechmann – The Associated Press: 7 September 2017

Nick Rasmussen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, says that, in the vast majority of homegrown terrorism cases in the U.S., someone was aware that something wasn’t right. “That tells me we have to do a much better job as an intelligence community and a law enforcement community of making information available to community actors who are going to be there long before the FBI shows up,” Rasmussen said.
http://www.apnewsarchive.com/2017/A-U-S-counterterrorism-official-says-that-in-the-majority-of-homegrown-terrorism-cases-someone-knew-ahead-of-time-that-something-was-amiss/id-ff86ccd6e2c041b-3ba1606cc4ba43024

Get Facts Right: Morocco is a shining example of how to counter radicalisation and terrorism
Rudroneel Ghosh – The Times of India: 1 September 2017

Morocco remains largely insulated from terrorist attacks in the region, thanks to a three-pronged strategy that combines security measures with promoting moderate religious discourse and fighting poverty.

For more on this theme:

Online counterterrorism workshop raises big questions for Irish start-ups
https://www.siliconrepublic.com/start-ups/tech-against-terrorism-dcu

Philippines eyes counter-terrorism task force with Malaysia, Indonesia

Counterterrorism Agencies’ Task is Becoming Increasingly Complex
https://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/world-news/counterterrorism-agencies-task-becoming-increasingly-complex

What Can Stop the Next Black Hawk Down: Risks to Special Operation Forces in the Trump Era

UAE hosts symposium on countering extremism and terrorism in education

Dogs can play vital role as tactical tools for anti-terror ops, say experts at Gurgaon conference
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

Radar used to capture drug trafficking used to help with hurricane aftermath
Shelby Danielsen – First Coast News: 6 September 2017

Typically used for seeking out drug traffickers, the P3 Airborne Early Warning aircraft owned by U.S. Customs and Border Protection deployed its unique APS-145 radar to help flood victims and rescuers in Texas. The radar acted as a communications hub to relay messages and prevent collisions between various aid aircraft.


Hacking Hurricane Harvey through Crowdsourcing and Automation
Joe Schuman – The Cipher Brief: 7 September 2017

Hurricane Harvey overwhelmed Texas, causing over $50 billion in damages. The federal government and state and local governments from around the U.S. responded, including a huge presence from the Department of Defense. But the response cannot continue at this level, especially as such disasters continue to mount. The author argues that the answers can be found in crowdsourcing and automation.


For more on this theme:

Hurricanes remind us our water systems are at risk of cyberattack

Cleaning up mountains of trash from Hurricane Harvey could take months

Free Wi-Fi after Hurricane Irma? Comcast has Florida covered

Hurricane Irma just made a digital walkie-talkie the No. 1 app online

What caused Hurricane Irma? Did climate change cause this Category 5 tropical storm?