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
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Taking Stock of Indonesia’s Anti-Corruption Effort
Ahmad Novindri Aji Sukma – The Diplomat: 15 December 2018
Indonesia has been diligently working on its anti-corruption protocols for decades, but problems remain with its policies. The Corruption Eradication Commission lacks the resources to do its job, the nation’s laws are inadequate, and civil society participation is lackluster in the fight against graft.

Watch: Romania’s anti-corruption activists mark a year of consecutive protests
Rachael Kennedy – Euronews: 11 December 2018
While some protests in Romania have been huge and loud, particularly in the capital, every day for the past year in Sibiu, Transylvania, activists have gathered in silent protest of the ruling Social Democrat Party’s corruption.

For more on this theme:
Estonia to further enhance anti-corruption efforts in the government and the police, says anti-corruption group
Honduran Activist’s Murder Trial Addresses Symptoms, Not Causes, of Violence
Jordanians brave downpour to protest at corruption in Amman
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/jordanians-brave-downpour-to-protest-at-corruption-in-amman-1.804884
Thousands protest corruption in northeast Sudan
Latest Corruption Network Dismantled in Venezuelan Oil Industry
Guatemala expels investigators from U.N. anti-corruption group
Brazil’s President Faces New Corruption And Money Laundering Charges
Iran’s ‘corruption courts’ fuel surge in executions
DRUG TRAFFICKING


United Nations Security Council: 19 December 2018

The U.N. drugs and crime chief said his office is registering “new, alarming trends” in drug trafficking in West and Central Africa that are destabilizing the country’s ability to govern and hindering its security, economic growth and public health.


How Legalizing Marijuana Is Securing the Border: The Border Wall, Drug Smuggling, and Lessons for Immigration Policy

David Bier – CATO Institute: 19 December 2018

The CATO Institute examined drug trafficking numbers to determine whether building a wall between Mexico and the U.S. would have any impact on marijuana smuggling. According to the analysis, a border wall or more Border Patrol agents would make little sense, while legalizing marijuana would greatly reduce trafficking.


For more on this theme:

Russia Is Punishing People for Helping Drug Users

More Venezuela Drug Plane Seizures Signal Trafficking Increase

Geography research in Central America leads to international drug trafficking

Dark web dealers voluntarily ban deadly fentanyl

Fentanyl’s spread likely linked to heroin shortage: report

China Killed Prince
https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/07/china-killed-prince-drugs-fentanyl-export/

It’s Time to Privatize the War on Drugs
https://intpolicydigest.org/2018/12/10/it-s-time-to-privatize-the-war-on-drugs/

Western countries will face ‘massive influx of drugs’ if Iran becomes weakened by U.S. sanctions, President Hassan Rouhani warns

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

Pakistan launches Smart new tool to protect wildlife
Sana Jamal – Gulf News: 18 December 2018

World Wildlife Fund Pakistan held an international workshop on the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for eliminating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the country.

The vast majority of animals in the wildlife trade are not protected
Rachel Nuwer – National Geographic: 14 December 2018

Though heavily trafficked, most animals aren’t protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the CITES conservation treaty. Only highly endangered species are fully protected, and many animals are not on the list because no one has ever done a census of the animal to gauge how endangered it is.

For more on this theme:

Malaysia a key link for Asia’s wildlife trafficking networks
https://menafn.com/1097814894/Malaysia-a-key-link-for-Asias-wildlife-trafficking-networks

Voracity of Chinese Fishing Vessels Threaten Latin American Seas

How Poverty Is Causing Deforestation Across Africa
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/how-poverty-causing-deforestation-across-africa

Conservation officers forced online in fight against bird trafficking

China ups fight against wildlife crime with tech partnership
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-12/19/c_137685179.htm

KENYA: Elephants and rhinos gradually escape the claws of poaching

World-leading UK Ivory Bill becomes law

Wildlife groups join hands to fight ivory trade

Will mainstreaming traditional Chinese medicine threaten wildlife?

From jaguar teeth to the nail of the great beast: the evolution of animal medicines
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Reported U.S. trafficking cases on the rise as victims seek help by texting
Ellen Wulfhorst – Reuters: 18 December 2018

Reports of human trafficking made to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline are up by 25 percent in 2018 over 2017 because of the addition of an around-the-clock, text-based system.
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trafficking/reported-u-s-trafficking-cases-on-the-rise-as-victims-seek-help-by-texting-idUSKBN1OI02A

Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in Libya

A U.N. report documents a litany of violations and abuses committed against migrants and refugees in Libya. The U.N.’s human rights office says state officials, armed groups, smugglers and traffickers have been known to subject the migrants and refugees to “unimaginable horrors.” These include unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, gang rape, slavery, forced labor and extortion.

For more on this theme:

Dangerous Alliances on Migration
https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/dangerous-alliances-migration

Confronting the challenges of migration in West and Central Africa

The Complex Effects of Development Aid on Migration

Migrant Deaths to Rise as Mediterranean Rescue Mission Ends?

Italy cracks down on asylum seekers’ opportunities to integrate
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2018/12/13/italy-cracks-down-on-asylum-seekers-opportunities-to-integrate

From Refugee to Commodity
https://features.weather.com/exodus/chapter/from-refugee-to-commodity/

Indonesia’s climate refugees are being forced into deadly labor abroad

Why Economic Freedom Is a Proven Antidote to the Scourge of Human Trafficking
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Our Shared Digital Future Building an Inclusive, Trustworthy and Sustainable Digital Society
World Economic Forum: 10 December 2018
Building a digital economy and society that is trusted, inclusive and sustainable requires urgent attention in six priority areas, according to “Our Shared Digital Futures,” a new report by the World Economic Forum.

For more on this theme:
(GLOBAL) The internet is going to hell and its creators want your help fixing it
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/12/11/tinternet_needs_work/
(GLOBAL) The War-Torn Web
(ASEAN) Unleashing ASEAN's full potential with data-driven governance

INTERNET FREEDOM

The most common forms of censorship the public doesn’t know about
Justin Kosslyn – TechCrunch: 19 December 2018
The internet wasn’t designed to protect your privacy, so censorship and surveillance are easy to impose. To make the internet private and secure will take reshaping the technical standards of the global internet.

For more on this theme:
(Albania) Albania PM Accused of Planning Online Media Censorship
(China) How Google took on China—and lost
https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612601/how-google-took-on-china-and-lost/
(China) China Steps Up Internet Surveillance by Recording User Activities
https://www.cpomagazine.com/2018/12/19/china-steps-up-internet-surveillance-by-recording-user-activities/
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

EU ministers raise privacy concerns in e-evidence bill
Phys.org: 7 December 2018

Some members of the European Commission are concerned that its digital evidence bill for cross-border terrorism cases will not protect its citizens’ rights.

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Australia's Controversial Encryption Legislation May Threaten More Than Online Privacy
https://www.nasdaq.com/article/australias-controversial-encryption-legislation-may-threaten-more-than-online-privacy-cm1067566

(Global) Your Apps Know Where You Were Last Night, and They're Not Keeping It Secret

(Global) Tech’s invasion of our privacy made us more paranoid in 2018

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Russian lawmakers seek tighter internet control to counter 'aggressive' U.S.
Reuters: 14 December 2018

Russian lawmakers have accused the U.S. of "aggressive" cyber actions and are looking to tighten state control over the internet in yet another power grab.
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-internet-security-idUSKBN1OD28N

For more on this theme:
(Europe) Making Europe a world leader in information & communication technology
https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/europe-world-leader-ict/55471/

(India) India's big leap into the digital future

(Australia) Australian government unveils 'Tech Future' strategy – strong focus on skills, inclusion and data
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Tunisian Internet Agency Signs Strategic Partnership With Blockchain Platform
Ana Alexandre – CoinTelegraph: 20 December 2018

The Tunisian Internet Agency has signed a 10-year strategic partnership with the blockchain platform Universa to further blockchain’s growth in the country. The agreement involves joint projects in the field of blockchain as a service, which includes digital currency, digital identity, smart cities and e-governance.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Your Next Internet Service Option Could Be One of These Companies
https://medium.com/nyc-mayors-office-of-the-cto/your-next-internet-service-option-could-be-one-of-these-companies-bdd0967ce800

(Pakistan) New digital policy focuses on tribal districts

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Chinese Internet Court Uses Blockchain To Combat Online Plagiarism
CCN: 19 December 2018

A newly established Internet Court in the Chinese city of Hangzhou will use blockchain technology in its fight against plagiarism for online writers. The blockchain technology will save time and reduce court costs.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., China) U.S. Accuses Chinese Nationals of Infiltrating Corporate and Government Technology

(Global) Blockchain Presents A Revolutionary Approach To The Intellectual Property

(New Zealand, China) Cyber campaign attributed to China
http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1812/S00276/cyber-campaign-attributed-to-china.htm
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Closing the Global Cyber Enforcement Gap**
Allison Peters – Lawfare: 18 December 2018

The “Paris Call for Trust and Stability in Cyberspace,” a multistakeholder effort by governments, companies and civil societies to establish global internet norms, will only be useful if the norms are enforced.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/closing-global-cyber-enforcement-gap

For more on this theme:

(UAE) Dubai ranks first globally in ‘Scientific and Technical Employment’

(U.S., Global) Expanding cyber defense
https://www.dvidshub.net/news/304667/expanding-cyber-defense

(Ghana) Cyber Security Authority to be Established in 2019

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**The ‘Global Cybercrime Problem’ Is Actually the ‘Russia Problem’**
John P. Carlin – The Atlantic: 16 December 2018

To deter Russian cyber intrusions, misinformation and malicious actions, the U.S. must convince Putin that it is serious about retaliation by responding swiftly to each attack.


For more on this theme:

(Global) To Catch a Hacker: Toward a comprehensive strategy to identify, pursue, and punish malicious cyber actors

(U.S.) Local tech wiz-kids launch company to fight cyber-crimes

(U.S., Global) MSU finds certain personality traits can make you more suspect to cybercrime
INFORMATION SHARING

Shared knowledge vital to tackling cyber-crime in financial sector
John Maslen – Asset Finance International: 14 December 2018

Financial services are under constant threat of malicious cyber attacks. These attacks are frequent and rapidly increasing. Sharing information is critical to fighting these threats in the financial sector.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) As problems with data and misinformation mount, securing networks and data is more crucial than ever
(U.S.) Exchange of Competitively Sensitive Information Among Competitors Prompts DOJ Enforcement Action
(U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Senate Democrats launch new privacy effort to protect consumer data

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Cybersecurity: The Hackers Are Already Through The Utilities’ Doors, So What’s Next?
Peter Kelly-Detwiler – Forbes: 20 December 2018

Hackers are already attempting to infiltrate our critical infrastructure daily. It is likely they have found vulnerabilities and are just waiting to exploit them. Why then isn’t management of such facilities sufficiently focused on the threat?


For more on this theme:
(Bulgaria) Mandatory cyber security standards apply to operators of critical infrastructure, digital and public service providers in Bulgaria
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=2551ac57-acee-4f43-93a8-dde5ac8eeeb5
(Czech Republic) Cyber security centre warns against use of Huawei devices in critical state infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**Despite Assurances From Trump, the U.S. Battle Against ISIS in Eastern Syria Is Far From Over**
Ali Younes, Trevor Aaronson and Murtaza Hussain – The Intercept: 20 December 2018
For many security experts, the depiction of the Islamic State as “defeated” — as President Donald Trump declared via Twitter — is not only inaccurate, but dangerously misleading. Despite its setbacks, the terrorist group maintains a formidable presence in Syria and Iraq, commanding fanatical, highly trained fighters believed to number in the thousands, including many who went into hiding after the fall of the group’s self-declared caliphate.

https://theintercept.com/2018/12/20/syria-civil-war-isis-us-airstrikes/

**Interpol warns of ISIS 2.0 when Islamic State supporters serving short sentences across Europe are freed from prison**
Charlie Moore – Daily Mail: 20 December 2018
With crowded prisons and short sentences, many ISIS-related prisoners will be released soon. Interpol is concerned that this could be the beginning of ISIS 2.0. — either in Europe or in Africa.


For more on this theme:

Amnesty International: Islamic State Wrought Havoc in Rural Iraq

The Islamic State in Khorasan: A review

Islamic State not defeated, just transforming: experts
http://www.rudaw.net/english/analysis/14122018

The Islamic State’s Toxic Legacy is an Environmental Catastrophe, Too
https://www.newsweek.com/islamic-state-wells-environment-yezidis-war-1259483

The Islamic State is not defeated in Syria. Or anywhere else. Look at Africa.

U.S. Exit Seen as a Betrayal of the Kurds, and a Boon for ISIS

Turkey threatens to ‘bury’ Kurdish forces in Syria amid U.S. withdrawal

US Syria pullout could hurt fight against Islamic State: Germany
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Islamic State claims clashes with Shabaab in Somalia  
Caleb Weiss – Long War Journal: 16 December 2018

For the first time, ISIS has openly and publicly announced its fighters clashed with and killed al-Shabaab fighters. Skirmishes have happened in the past, but both sides officially kept quiet about those incidents.


From the IRA to the Islamic State: The Evolving Terrorism Threat in Europe  
Seth G. Jones, Boris Toucas and Maxwell B. Markusen – Center for Strategic & International Studies: December 2018

This report takes a renewed look at Europe and compiles new data on the threat to Europe. It also examines the counterterrorism response by European governments, especially the United Kingdom and France.


For more on this theme:

Israel and Hezbollah: The borderline of war  

Where the Terrorists Will Strike Next  

US tech giant has been offering cybersecurity to terrorist groups: report  

What Stanley McChrystal learned from Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq before leading the operation to kill him  

Al Qaeda branch pressures governments for ransom payments  

Sub-Saharan Africa becoming new battleground against violent extremism as jihad ‘goes south’  

A Damning Measure of the War on Terror’s Failure  
https://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2018/12/19/a_damning_measure_of_the_war_on_terrors_failure_112934.html
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Trends in the Draw of Americans to Foreign Terrorist Organizations from 9/11 to Today
Heather J. Williams, Nathan Chandler and Eric Robinson – Rand: 18 December 2018

Despite its recent battlefield losses in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State has now surpassed al-Qaida in the race to recruit future jihadis from the U.S., Europe and across the globe. The Islamic State’s ascendancy has had the most impact on U.S.-based recruits, according to the Rand Corp.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2545.html

The Spanish Approach to Preventing and Fighting Violent Radicalization
Maria Lozano Alia – European Eye on Radicalization: 18 December 2018

Spain has produced a National Strategic Plan for the fight against violent radicalization. While it has some experience dealing with terrorism, it can learn from other European Union nations with more experience — including learning from their mistakes.

https://eeradicalization.com/the-spanish-approach-to-preventing-and-fighting-violent-radicalization/

For more on this theme:

Reframing Prevention: If Government Won’t Lead, Civil Society Must Step Up to Curb Extremism

King: ISIS will use Syria withdrawal to recruit

The Italian approach to de-radicalization
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2302/The_Italian_approach_to_de-radicalization#gsc.tab=0

Lessons From the Strasbourg Attack
https://eeradicalization.com/lessons-from-the-strasbourg-attack/

Strasbourg shooting: Why known extremists can carry out terror attacks

Stockholm Talks on Yemen: What Consequences for Local CVE?
https://eeradicalization.com/stockholm-talks-on-yemen-what-consequences-for-local-cve/

PVE vs CVE — What’s the Difference?
https://clarionproject.org/pve-vs-cve/

War on jihadis won’t end unless West tackles root causes: experts

How Spanish women are being lured into Jihadism
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The jihadists no one wants

What will happen to the roughly 2,700 men, women and children piled up in the prisons and camps in Syria once the U.S. withdraws? Nobody wants to be responsible for those being held — not the Kurds holding them or their countries of origin.


For more on this theme:
Kerala’s ticking time bomb: The silent returnees of the Islamic State are back

Taliban denial of presence of foreign fighters in Afghanistan is absurd

SDF could release 3,200 of its ISIS prisoners, withdraw from frontline: monitor
http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/201220181

Returning jihadists ‘threaten new wave of terror in Europe’

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

How Special Ops Can Step It Up
Jonathan Schroden – War on the Rocks: 19 December 2018

If U.S. Special Operations Command (USOCOM) wants to remain a priority within the National Defense Strategy and the Defense Department’s portfolio of capabilities, it needs to think outside the box and be a leader. The author argues that USOCOM must undertake some critical self-examination, engage in rigorous force analysis and design, and make some hard choices about its future roles, missions and associated capabilities.

https://warontherocks.com/2018/12/how-special-ops-can-step-it-up/

For more on this theme:
Prevent counter-terrorism strategy remains unfair on British Muslims, despite Home Office efforts

Can America’s Countering Violent Extremism Efforts be Salvaged?

Experts say Nigeria must change its strategy to defeat Boko Haram