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PUBLIC EVENT REGISTRATION

We welcome the general public to our events at no charge. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Register by phone at 212-992-8380 or online at sps.nyu.edu/cga.events. More information also is available on our website. You will receive registration confirmation after your online registration is complete. Unless otherwise indicated, all public events are held at:

NYU School of Professional Studies
Center for Global Affairs
Woolworth Building
15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor (between Broadway and Church Street)
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INFORMATION AND ADVISEMENT

For additional information on our graduate programs, please call 212-998-7100; for information on our Professional Pathways programs, call 212-998-7200. Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga for a complete overview of all programs we offer.
Dear Friends,

Over these many years I have tried in my messages to touch on issues of importance to me and to our community: diversity, inclusion, ending violence and poverty, promoting human rights, and safeguarding multilateralism. My hope is that what we relay to our students in and out of the classroom will make them “global citizens.” You have heard me repeat those words hundreds of times at events as well as in these pages.

In these messages, you could not fail to note an underlying personal theme: namely the refugee experience which I too experienced as a young girl. You may have gathered that I came to the US after WWII with remnants of my family from what was then Czechoslovakia. What I want to share is not the wartime years of separation from and death of family and friends—unimaginable losses and traumas—but rather to talk to you about memories and arrival in the US. It was Janet Malcolm’s recent memoir in the New Yorker that started this train of thought. Although she left Czechoslovakia in 1939, and I in 1947, her memories and reactions on arrival in this country were almost identical to mine.

So let me begin with the details. I did not speak English. I had been liberated by Russian troops, so this would be my first contact with Americans, though I had American aunts and uncles who emigrated before the war. Together, with the other family survivors we moved into Borough Park. It was January, and I was immediately enrolled in Pershing Junior High. I was totally overwhelmed by homework assignments that I had first to translate and then memorize. I begged my father to request that I be placed in a lower grade, but the school refused under the mistaken assumption that European children were smart (direct quote) and that I would catch up.

They were correct at least about the second part. I did catch up, skipped a grade (mistake), and got a scholarship medal from P.S. 74, but all I wanted was to be rid of my lace-up shoes and thick stockings (which would be the height of fashion today) and be like others my age. I went on to Franklin K. Lane High School and blended with a multi-racial, multiethnic student body. I became a Dodgers fanatic and made good friends. I adopted America, and America adopted me.

Fast forward to today. What is happening to us and to the rest of the developed world? Why today, when so many of us can satisfy our basic needs for food and shelter, do we turn a blind eye to others? I am not speaking of many communities here and abroad that have opened up their homes, schools, and houses of prayer to the new crop of refugees. But we Americans have reduced our quotas for legal immigrants to their lowest level, have threatened to erect walls, and are refusing to grant amnesty when and where needed. Parts of Europe are not doing any better. Why, faced with aging populations, can’t developed countries find ways to absorb and utilize the skills and diversity that refugees represent? I have no doubt that given a chance their children will become as successful as previous waves of immigrants have been. But deprived of those opportunities, we are creating a tinder box of discontent in refugee camps and desolate encampments.

So as we embark on 2019 I hope that our students, our alumni, and all members of our CGA community will chart a more enlightened path to a more inclusive and welcoming world. I hope you share this vision and will do whatever it takes to make it a reality.

With all my good wishes for the year ahead,

Vera Jelinek, Divisional Dean
Last fall, CGA fulltime and adjunct faculty engaged in a remarkable array of research, fieldwork, advocacy, and other forms of practice. Below is a sample of some of those projects.

Adjunct Assistant Professor Kevin Chen recently wrote two book chapters on financial technology (FinTech): “Financial Innovation and Technology Firms: A Smart New World with Machines,” for *Banking and Finance Issues in Emerging Markets* Vol: 25 and “How Can FinTech Remake Russia’s Development?” for *Exploring the Future of Russia’s Economy and Markets: Towards Sustainable Economic Development*. At the center of the first article was a critical examination of the key components of the financial innovation: mobile banking, trading, investment, and insurance business, with a focus on the US and China in the first chapter. The second chapter focused on the unique challenges and opportunities that Russian FinTech firms have faced over the recent years.

This past fall, CGA Professor Jennifer Trahan lectured at Salzburg Law School’s “Twentieth Anniversary Symposium,” in Salzburg, Austria. She then spoke on two side-event panels in The Hague, Netherlands, at the annual meeting of the International Criminal Court’s Assembly of States Parties—a panel on the crime of aggression, sponsored by Liechtenstein, and a panel on “Hard Law Obligations, Atrocity Crimes and the Veto,” sponsored by Liechtenstein, Costa Rica, and The Netherlands. She also delivered remarks relating to the latter topic in Madrid, Spain, where she served as an expert and moderator at a retreat on Security Council reform hosted by the Government of Spain.

Adjunct instructor Martin Smyth has been renewed for a second year of funding under the Visiting Scientist Research Participation Program administered by Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Smyth’s research considers the emergence of mass-mobilization movements on online social network service platforms, as well as their subsequent manifestation as political demonstrations in the streets of urban centers. The goal of this research is to identify the underlying complex systems dynamics driving the emergence and manifestation of mass-mobilization movements, thereby offering useful insights to policy-practitioners in the humanitarian and civil society sectors.

Clinical Assistant Professor, John V. Kane, and coauthor Jason Barabas (Stony Brook University) published an article in the *American Journal of Political Science*. Experiments are a powerful method for testing ideas, but their success hinges on participants actually paying attention. In “No Harm in Checking: Using Factual Manipulation Checks to Assess Attentiveness in Experiments”, Kane and Barabas first report the results of a content analysis designed to understand how social scientists have assessed attentiveness in experimental research designs in recent decades. After developing an original typology of so-called “manipulation checks” (the most common method for assessing attentiveness), the authors report the results of four replication experiments, with the primary goal of statistically determining the extent to which assessing attentiveness, in itself, affects experimental treatment effects. Based upon these results, the authors lay out best practices for assessing attentiveness in experiments, which will better enable researchers to diagnose results, test hypotheses, and advance theory.

[2] sps.nyu.edu/cga
Adjunct Assistant Professor and CGA Advisory Board member Richard Wolfe’s *We Fed An Island: The True Story of Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time*, co-written with chef José Andrés, was published September 2018, becoming an instant *New York Times* bestseller. It tells the story of a major food relief operation that was one of the few success stories after Hurricane Maria devastated the US territory, revealing the fatal flaws in disaster response today.

Adjunct Instructor Jessica Wurwarg attended the Moscow Urban Forum this past summer where she presented on a panel about Sustainable Transportation, and lectured on Urbanization and Food Security at the Moscow Urban Fest. She gave an additional presentation about the agricultural and political stories behind Russian cheeses and wines, which examined the Soviet era, reinforcing the theory that eating is a political act, and that more thinking must be done to address urbanization-inspired world food insecurity.

Adjunct Assistant Professor Michael Shank served as co-editor for *GAME CHANGERS: Bold Actions by Cities to Accelerate Progress Toward Carbon Neutrality* published by the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance. It was released at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018. The publication provides examples and resources for the global climate community and anyone working on or in cities and sustainability.

The idea for the book *The American Anomaly: US Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective* was born in an NYUSPS classroom when a student asked Adjunct Associate Professor Raymond A. Smith: “why should students of American politics care about the political systems of other countries?” The resulting textbook has been used at universities across the US and abroad since 2007, and in December 2018 was released in a revised fourth edition. *The American Anomaly* offers a unique lens on American governmental institutions and political processes by way of systematic comparison with other democracies. Updates for the new edition provide comparative context for the anomalous US presidential election of 2016; the unconventional Trump presidency; social movements such as Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and the Alt-Right; and emerging political memes including “fake news,” “deep state,” “Brexit,” and “#MeToo.”

Since October 2018, Adjunct Instructor Joshua Krasna has been writing as a fellow of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies, in addition to his previous affiliation as Senior Fellow with the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute. Krasna participated in a briefing for Israel-based journalists on “Israel and the Arab World: Warming Relations, Shared Interests, Possible Scenarios”, at the Jerusalem Press Club in December 2018.
Danny Rogers is co-founder and CEO at Terbium Labs, an information security company, and also is co-founder and CTO of the Global Disinformation Index, which assists governments, the private sector, and civil society in the fight to counteract the spread of disinformation. This spring, he begins teaching courses at CGA focused on disinformation and narrative warfare. Here, he speaks with Preview about the evolution of information security, risks that we routinely ignore, and how low-level fraud enables election meddling.

**PREVIEW:** You are focused largely on the dark web, information theft, and the dissemination of disinformation. How did you get into this area, and how has this field changed in the time you’ve been active as a researcher and practitioner?

**ROGERS:** I’ve been working in and around information security for about fifteen years now, which feels like a long time in such a dynamic and rapidly evolving field. In graduate school, I worked on advanced, physics-based cryptographic methods (something called Quantum Key Distribution), which was a weird foray into the world of information security (there aren’t a lot of us quantum physicists in the field, shockingly). I then spent five years at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab working on cyber operations work for the Defense and Intelligence Communities. The experiences I had and perspective I gained in that role really helped me understand both cyber and information operations much more deeply, and taught me the value of an intelligence-focused approach. This is what led to the founding of Terbium Labs, my commercial company. Our goal is to bring a more proactive, intelligence-forward approach to the commercial information security community.

**PREVIEW:** One question we’ve been asking our students and alumni working in this space to consider is what they feel the general public is ignoring or unaware of when it comes to the relationship between global security and cyber technologies. How would you weigh in on this? In addition to the threats posed, are there opportunities in cyber technology that we may not be considering?

**ROGERS:** One area that’s quite often overlooked is the connection between fraud, especially cyber-enabled fraud, and larger global security issues such as nonproliferation or foreign political meddling. For example, North Korea regularly engages in lower level fraud schemes, or even large-scale cyber heists such as the ones exploiting vulnerabilities in the SWIFT international bank transfer network, in order to evade sanctions and fund their nuclear program. Similarly, Russian disinformation actors use stolen credit cards and compromised identities to buy dark ads on Facebook and meddle in Western elections. These are just two examples of convergence between fraud or information security and broader global security issues.

**PREVIEW:** What can a generally concerned member of the public do to be more aware of these issues and lessen their own risk of being victimized by cyber-enabled fraud?

**ROGERS:** Great question. There are a few things individuals can and should do to make themselves less vulnerable. Examples include turning on two-factor authentication everywhere you can, using a password manager, freezing your credit reports with all four (yes, there are four) credit bureaus, and creating verbal passwords with your various banks and credit card issuers. But ultimately, these are all reactionary and don’t prevent the large-scale activities that happen at a corporate level. Ultimately, change needs to occur within industry, especially within the data-driven ad tech ecosystem, where valuable personal data is rampantely exploited and unsecured. So perhaps the most important things you can do as an individual are delete your Facebook account and call your representative to demand strong privacy regulation as soon as possible, because that’s what will really help move us in the right direction.

[4] sps.nyu.edu/cga
A CONVERSATION WITH DANNY ROGERS

PREVIEW: Your new course in our graduate program, “Disinformation and Narrative Warfare” frames the manipulation of information in a historical context while focusing on how the Internet has exponentially increased the ability to propagate disinformation. Has the cyber landscape actually changed the nature of disinformation beyond increasing its capacity to spread?

ROGERS: I wouldn’t underestimate the effect that massive scalability has on disinformation. As Marshall McLuhan said, the medium is the message, and disinformation that leverages the massive and nearly costless scaling that the social Internet provides fundamentally alters the nature of narrative warfare itself. The content hasn’t changed in a century. Gilbert and Sullivan famously included the line in their 1878 opera *HMS Pinafore*, “I learned some tricks from the Ipswitch Witch, if you want to win a vote, scratch a bigot’s itch.” There’s nothing new in using issues such as race to divide a population. The difference is, the existence of microtargeted social media makes it possible to pervade that message at next to no cost, and that fundamentally alters the landscape.

PREVIEW: It is easy to understand how this course might fit into the curriculum of the forthcoming MS in Global Security, Conflict, and Cybercrime—how do you see this topic also relating to our MS in Global Affairs, and how do you expect students to grapple with this issue in their research and future work?

ROGERS: We can no longer separate the Internet or technology from the rest of global security, the same way we don’t separate, say, sea power from the rest of the global security conversation. Perhaps the connection isn’t intuitive right now, but think about the implications of the Office of Personnel Management breach on the safety of American security personnel around the globe. Or think about the risks to the integrity of the financial system posed by the Equifax breach, and think about where all that stolen wealth ends up. These abstract events have serious consequences, ones that we’re only beginning to experience and understand. If the last few years have taught us anything, it’s that the information environment we occupy is fundamental to our global security, so I think topics like information security and narrative warfare are fundamental to any conversation on global security these days, and I only expect that connection to solidify further going forward.

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PUBLIC EVENTS

PUBLIC EVENTS AT CGA

Events provide an opportunity for you to engage in the topics you care about and expand your network. The following events are free and open to the public. Sign up for our email updates to receive the latest information on our public offerings by emailing sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu.

Because our events are offered free of charge, seats are made available until we reach capacity; after that point, we can no longer accommodate preregistered guests. Doors open 30 minutes before the start of the event.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the NYU School of Professional Studies Center for Global Affairs, 15 Barclay Street, 4th Floor (between Broadway and Church Street).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS SERIES

Intrigued by an international career? Ready for life with at least one foot across sovereign borders? Are you a new job seeker or transitioning to a new career? This popular series provides an opportunity to meet international insiders who offer practical advice and who share their real-life experiences.

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for panelist information and to register. Panels are offered in collaboration with Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP).

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS
Monday, February 25, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderator: Anne Marie Goetz, Clinical Professor, NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR
Monday, March 4, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderator: Steve Godeke, Principal, Godeke Consulting

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS WITH NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
Wednesday, March 6, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderator: Brad Heckman, Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor of Global Affairs, NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs

INTERNATIONAL CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT
Monday, March 11, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
Moderator: Judith Siegel, former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Information Programs, US Department of State

ADDITIONAL EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED
SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES!

Throughout the year, CGA offers additional events to those listed. Request our email updates by writing to sps.global.affairs@nyu.edu and receive the latest news about our events and special programs as they are added to our calendar.
JUSTICE, CONFLICT, AND DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM TRANSITIONING SOCIETIES

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ESRC STRATEGIC NETWORK ON JUSTICE, CONFLICT, AND DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, February 7, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

What have been the impacts of transitional justice and development programmes upon conflict-affected and transitioning societies such as Colombia, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Uganda? Join CGA for a panel examining this issue with particular reference to the political economy of justice programs, featuring panelists drawn from a research network on ‘Justice, Conflict and Development’ which aims to use comparative learning to inform policy in conflict-affected societies. The network compares the interaction of conflict, justice and development policies, exploring in particular the impact of transitional justice mechanisms on longer-term peacebuilding, social cohesion, and development.

The panel marks the end of the grant and will review and update the findings from the project. More information on the network can be found at [https://justiceanddevelopment.com](https://justiceanddevelopment.com).

FUNDRAISING FOR POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FOUNDATION CENTER

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Political and civic engagement is critical for democracy, but strict rules governing campaign financing and nonprofit advocacy can make it difficult for organizations and individuals to participate. How can social media be most effectively leveraged? How can organizations engage volunteers, employees, board members, and their community to participate in these efforts? Join us as we discuss how to navigate these waters and strategies for creating sustainable and positive change.

Panel to include: Tracy Kaufman, Community Outreach Manager, Foundation Center
Elizabeth Ngonzi, International Nonprofit Executive Consultant

RUSSIA AND THE US: HERE WE GO AGAIN...

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

The US and Russia are revisiting some of the flashpoints of the old US-Soviet rivalry—influence over the direction of Europe, security in the Middle East—and antagonizing each other in Ukraine and Georgia, creating a new conflict corridor in Russia’s own backyard. What do these new/old disagreements tell us about the players? And what do they and the many other points of contention between the two tell us about the global setting nearly 30 years since the disappearance of the Soviet Union?

Veterans of the “old” Cold War will have a wide-ranging conversation about the key factors driving Russia’s new foreign policy activism, including how much of it is ascribable to an aggressive Vladimir Putin and to what extent, if any, the Russian president’s external policies tells us something about his broader personal agenda. They also will attempt to backtest this apparently personality-driven strategy against traditional Russian national interests.

Discussants: Peter Clement, Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor, Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs; Richard Levitt, Adjunct Assistant Professor, NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs.
IS POVERTY A POLITICAL CHOICE?:
A CONVERSATION WITH PHILIP ALSTON
PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH TRICKLE UP
Wednesday, February 27, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Since being named the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in 2014, Philip Alston has investigated extreme poverty in countries as diverse as Ghana, Mauritania, Chile, China, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In a conversation with former New York Times foreign correspondent Calvin Sims, Alston will share his perspective on what needs to be done to end poverty.

RSVP: to Elena Szajewski by February 20 at eszajewski@trickleup.org or 212-255-9980 x 210

BLOCKCHAIN AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Tuesday, March 12, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Blockchain is more than just a platform for cryptocurrencies. This distributed ledger technology is being employed across a wide variety of sectors and has the potential to be the next big industry disruptor. In the areas of humanitarian assistance and international development, blockchain has offered itself as a solution for managing everything from identity, payments, voting, and ownership records, and its immutability provides transparency and security against corruption. Join us as we explore the potential of blockchain in supporting vulnerable communities globally.

CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT:
ISSUES, ACTORS, AND APPROACHES
Tuesdays, 12:30–1:30 p.m., February 5 – March 5
Event location: NYU Wagner at the Puck Building—295 Lafayette Street

This brown-bag lunch series examines new research, creative policy approaches, and recent innovations in addressing security and development challenges in conflict and postconflict contexts.

CGA offers this series in collaboration with:
Office of International Programs at NYU Wagner
Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the NYU Law School
The Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights
The Program in International Relations at NYU’S GSAS

Visit sps.nyu.edu/cga.events for additional information.
Conflict in the South China Sea has become one of the most significant geopolitical concerns of the 21st century. It is estimated that $5.3 trillion worth of goods moves through the South China Sea annually, 1.2 trillion of which is with the US. Around forty percent of global liquefied natural gas trade moves through the South China Sea. Any military conflict there would cripple critical global supply chains. In recent years, China has undertaken efforts to reclaim thousands of square feet in the South China Sea. Its construction of artificial islands and infrastructure such as runways, support buildings, loading piers, and possible satellite communication antennas has prompted its neighbors and the US to question China’s motives. The US Navy sends ships into the South China Sea to counter what Washington sees as Beijing’s efforts to limit freedom of navigation in the strategic waters, where Chinese, Japanese, and some Southeast Asian navies operate. The slightest miscalculation could have dire consequences not just for Sino-US relations but also have implications for the region.

Can there be a “win-win” situation in the South China Sea? What are China’s ultimate objectives? What should the US’s strategic goals be? How should the US and other countries within the region avoid conflict and instead foster a greater sense of trust and enhance cooperation in the South China Sea?

Moderator: Earl Carr, Adjunct Instructor, NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs; Managing Director, Momentum Advisors

Panelists: Kimball Chen, Chairman, The Global LPG Partnership; Chairman, Energy Transportation Group, Inc.
Rorry Daniels, Deputy Project Director, Forum on Asia-Pacific Security, National Committee on American Foreign Policy
Brigadier General S. Clinton Hinote, Deputy Director, Air Force Warfighting Integration Capability Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters US Air Force
Li Qingsi, Professor for International Relations, School of International Studies, Renmin University
GREAT POWER CONFLICT IN THE AGE OF CYBER INSECURITY

Monday, April 1, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

The Trump administration has made it clear that great power conflict is back. From the 2017 National Security Strategy to Vice President Pence’s recent speech on China, it is evident that, at least from the US perspective, the security focus should be on a resurgent Russia and a rising China as a first priority. Interstate conflict, potentially between nuclear-armed great powers, appears to be back on the agenda.

States—large and small—have long realized that information and influence is a key component of national advantage, alongside diplomatic, military, and economic power. Therefore it should come as no surprise to see states active in the cyber world, both defensively and—increasingly—in an offensive role.

How these trends play out in the near future is a major concern. Will cyber serve as an arena for low-level competition, characterized by dirty tricks—a virtual nuisance and nothing more? Or will it be used as another weapon in an overall campaign of interstate competition or perhaps as a prelude to conflict? Does its real value lie in its ability to spread mis-and dis-information in our societies, exploiting and exacerbating the fault lines inside Western states and across our international alliances and institutions?

Join CGA to explore whether the future consists of one or all of these possibilities, and what their impact might be on global conflict.

FUELING OUR FUTURE: THE ECONOMICS AND GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

THE FUTURE OF OPEC

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Much has changed for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over the past 12 months. Historically, the dominance of the organization has been such that any announced cuts or increases drove the market, but those days are gone. Increasingly, non-OPEC countries, like the US, are playing a more significant role and the distribution of resources has created a shift in industry dynamics. As such, OPEC’s influence is diminishing, and it’s hard to imagine how it will regain its past market power.

Join CGA Academic Director and Clinical Professor Carolyn Kissane to discuss the future of the OPEC’s influence and evolving dynamics and geopolitics of oil.

Panelists: Ed Morse, Global Head of Commodities Research, Citigroup
Amy Myers Jaffe, David M. Rubenstein senior fellow for energy and the environment and director of the program on Energy Security and Climate Change, the Council on Foreign Relations
Michael Tran, Managing Director, Energy Strategist, RBC Capital Markets
FURTHER EVENTS

ALLISON SCHRAGER: AN ECONOMIST WALKS INTO A BROTHEL AND OTHER UNEXPECTED PLACES TO UNDERSTAND RISK

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Allison Schrager is an economist, journalist at Quartz, and co-founder of LifeCycle Finance Partners, a risk advisory firm. She consulted to international organizations, including the OECD and IMF and led retirement product innovation at Dimensional Fund Advisors. She also has been a regular contributor to the Economist, Reuters, and Bloomberg Businessweek. She has a PhD in economics from Columbia University, currently teaches at New York University, and lives in New York City.

In An Economist Walks into a Brothel, Schrager equips readers with five principles for dealing with risk, principles used by some of the world’s most interesting risk-takers, from professional poker players, to horse breeders in Kentucky, to a war general who led troops in Iraq. In doing so, she examines the risks—both large and small—encountered by even the most cautious among us and how to measure those risks.

NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY IN THE TRUMP ERA: EXAMINING NORTH KOREA AND IRAN

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

The Trump administration’s approach to nuclear non-proliferation is exceptionally unorthodox. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran’s nuclear program has, by all accounts, succeeded in stopping its relentless march towards weaponization. Yet the Trump administration has rejected the agreement and pulled out of it. In contrast, the unprecedented summit meeting in Singapore between President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un, was high on optics and rhetoric but vague on specifics, and there is little evidence that it has stopped North Korea’s program. Yet the Trump administration has proclaimed it to be a model approach to non-proliferation.

Is there a rationale behind this unusual approach to Iran and North Korea? More importantly, is this approach likely to work? What role might the United Nations (UN) and related agencies play in this role? And what are the implications for global non-proliferation if it fails in its stated objective?

Moderator: Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu, Clinical Associate Professor, NYUSPS Center for Global Affairs

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

HARD LAW OBLIGATIONS, ATROCITY CRIMES, AND THE VETO

Currently, the use of the veto by permanent members of the UN Security Council is treated as above all international law—with the result that it can be invoked for any reason or no reason whatsoever, in the face of ongoing genocide, crimes against humanity and/or war crimes. This panel questions this state of affairs by exploring legal challenges that could be pursued to question unlimited veto use in the face of atrocity crimes with CGA Clinical Professor Jennifer Trahan, who has been working on this initiative.
CGA IN THE FIELD

A NEW MS DEGREE Responds to Cyber Threats and Global Security Issues

For nearly 15 years, CGA has focused on anticipating, analyzing, and forming solutions to pressing global challenges. The development of a MSGA Concentration in Transnational Security in 2008 strengthened the graduate program’s focus on transnational crime, terrorism, and security threats as they relate to global affairs. Now, technology and globalization have altered war, from cyber, to nonlinear warfare, to unmanned and autonomous weapons, to terrorists’ use of social media, encryption, and the Dark Web. Great power (or even civil) conflicts may be as much enacted via cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns as through drone or biological/chemical weapon attacks.

In response to the changing landscape of global security issues, Divisional Dean Vera Jelinek and Academic Director Carolyn Kissane consulted with faculty and industry insiders to develop a full masters program examining these topics, and CGA is launching a MS in Global Security, Conflict, and Cybercrime (MSGSCC) this fall after two years of curricular development and review.

Below, Kissane reflects on the purpose and relevance of the MSGSCC along with two MSGA faculty who have also been instrumental to its development. In addition, several current MSGA students and alumni who have focused their research and work on the impact of cyber technology on global security share their perspectives on what they feel people are not sufficiently aware of in terms of the threats or opportunities these technologies offer in managing conflict/crime.

IDENTIFYING DEMAND

Divisional dean Jelinek and Kissane knew that the impact of cyber technology was already being seen across the areas covered in the Global Affairs degree, with MSGA students keenly interested in opportunities to take more courses related to cybercrime and security. They assessed the current landscape in cyber-related graduate education and saw a gap, especially in the application of a truly global lens. Kissane explained, “What is interesting is that cyber straddles so many of the areas we have emphasized at CGA—here we look at global affairs as ranging across borders and sectors. So we saw the development of a new (cyber-focused) Masters as a natural extension of the MSGA…we developed and thought of this new Masters in that way, knowing it wasn’t going to be a technical program, or computer science oriented, but rather would look at the role of government, private sector, and non-state actors, including how they can be proactive as well as reactive to cyber threats.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER ANKERSEN

Clinical Associate Professor Christopher Ankersen is a transnational security expert who currently teaches in the MSGA program and also will be teaching courses in the MS in Global Security, Conflict, and Cybercrime. He sees the potential to bring an innovative perspective to a rapidly-developing field: “The new degree builds on traditional approaches to security and extends them into the world of cybersecurity, filled with its own denizens—good and bad. It looks at how conflict and crime play out via the Internet. It is concerned not only with the technology behind this, but with the conceptual frameworks and policy responses that have been developed in order to better understand it.”

[12] sps.nyu.edu/cga
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MARY BETH ALTIER

Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Beth Altier, who heads the MSGA’s Concentration in Transnational Security agrees that “these are areas of critical importance where there is a noted lack of talent both in the private and public sector. Individuals often only have in-depth knowledge of cyber or of international affairs.” Today’s practitioners and prospective employers, she feels, will see great value in a degree such as this, which will offer both.

Specifically, technology—from smartphones to satellites to drones to nuclear missiles—plays a vital role in all conflict but Clinical Associate Professor Christopher Ankersen explains this can be more nuanced than is typically understood: “For instance, communications networks allow nations to command and control military forces. They also allow terrorists to coordinate their operations. Still further, they allow journalists to keep us informed about human rights abuses in far-off locations which in turn allows civil society groups to advocate for change, which might take the shape of armed intervention.”

PRACTITIONERS AND FIELDWORK

The creation of the new MSGSCC took over a year, with considerable reflection on what approach to take and a lengthy process of review and approval by the NY State Education Department’s Office of College and University Evaluation. Despite the delays, Kissane felt encouraged whenever she met professionals working in the field and heard how excited they were about this opportunity to target a gap in cyber education. “When I heard practitioners talk about their excitement about what we are doing, I knew we were really onto something. It affirmed our decision to launch this MS, to hear such a positive response from people on the front lines in cybersecurity,” she said.

As a former practitioner in the security field himself (most recently as Security Adviser for the United Nations system in Thailand), Ankersen also believes this “big picture” approach is particularly important, in light of the complexity of maintaining security today: “We are entering a period of turbulence, with security issues that span paradigms, from national security to human security, from hybrid security to interstate security, from sophisticated high-tech systems to old-school, brute force tactics.”

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED?

Has the proliferation of new technologies for storing and communicating data actually changed the nature of global security issues? While nations and non-state actors have stolen information and spread disinformation for as long as conflict has existed, the speed and reach of current technologies pose new challenges. As Ankersen explains, “Security threats are promiscuous: they can no longer be contained to a single sector. In fact, due in part to the interconnectivity of our world, issues that originate in one area or sector can spill over to other areas or sectors in the blink of an eye. For instance, hate speech uttered in one corner of the globe can be responsible for violence on a different continent, all thanks to simultaneous communications facilitated by social networks. We can see similar distributed security effects involving pathogens or malicious computer code. Security through containment is becoming increasingly futile.”

Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Beth Altier, who researches terrorism and other forms of political violence, has found that while the nature of great power conflicts remains essentially unchanged, cyber technologies do pose certain new risks, and are “drastically altering the
nature of war and challenging established norms.” Just as terrorists have found new recruitment opportunities in social media, encryptions, and the Dark Web, she says, “We are witnessing a rise in great power conflict via subversive or irregular means. From Russian cyber-attacks on the DNC and disinformation campaigns, to China’s behavior in the South China Sea, to the involvement of Iranian proxies in places like Iraq, Yemen, and Syria, we are observing challenges to US hegemony and global power as well as the liberal world order. A rise in populism and a proliferation of fragile states also are playing a role.”

The question is how states and the international community might respond to this: “Such challenges highlight the need for new norms regarding, for example, proportional and just responses to cyber-intrusions and the use of irregular warfare or proxies by state actors to seize territory for geopolitical influence.”

LEARNING HOW TO RESPOND

Altier points out that the existing MS in Global Affairs already offers insights into this challenge: “The MSGA addresses how traditional doctrines of war and IR theory apply to emerging and unconventional security threats. Using a combination of theory, debate, and scenario-building, we analyze threats and the effectiveness of possible responses in order to develop best practices. Students try to anticipate the ways in which states and non-state actors might exploit emerging technology, subversion, and irregular warfare for their gain, and the security challenges that will emerge.”

While government might be the first sector that comes to mind when the public hears about cyber conflict, every sector is affected by these security threats. Altier uses the private sector as one example: “Take the hack on SONY Pictures...Here, you have a state actor—North Korea—launching a politically motivated attack on a private company. The energy sector has been the target of cyber-intrusions by Russian and Iranian linked actors. The public sector and defense industry are trying to adapt and innovate quickly in response to the changing threat landscape, but many of these institutions are slow-moving and we are seeing the quickest adaptation in

CGA RESPONDS:
KRISTEN VISAKAY
MSGA ’17; Analyst, Private Client Services, K2 Intelligence

Today’s cyber technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, provide attractive conveniences to consumers. After all, who of us wouldn’t want our refrigerator to be able tell us its contents while we’re grocery shopping? Unfortunately, people are not sufficiently aware of the cybersecurity risks surrounding these smart devices. This lack of awareness is amplified by the false assumption that devices are inherently secure and by people’s unwillingness to actually read their devices’ privacy policies or terms of use. The privacy and security tradeoffs we make to enjoy these modern conveniences are often overlooked, and the full extent of their implications for global security remain to be seen. As the number of devices—and of accounts created to operate these devices—grows around the world, so does the area of exposure. In the event of a breach or security incident, these seemingly innocuous devices may end up being the means of intrusion. I’d like people to be more cognizant of what information their devices are collecting, as well as how they are collecting it, so appropriate safeguards can be put in place where possible.
the private sector, which is a bit more agile and is better able to attract top talent.” For students seeking a comprehensive focus on global security from the angle of cyber technologies, the new MS program will offer a seamless transition from theory to practice, and from the classroom to the field. Ankersen describes the new degree as “building on traditional approaches to security and extending them into the world of cybersecurity, filled with its own denizens—good and bad. It looks at home insecurity—conflict and crime—play out on, through, and via the Internet. It is concerned not only with the technology behind this, but with the conceptual frameworks and policy responses that have been developed in order to better understand it. Altier adds that “the emphasis will be on how cyber is changing the dynamics of conflict, crime, and security. Students will be able to take courses on cybersecurity, cybercrime, cyberconflict and cyberwar, disinformation and influence operations, cyberlaw and cyberliberties, terrorists’ use of social media and the Internet—to name a few.”

CGA RESPONDS: SERENA SMILEY
MSGA Candidate; Senior Technical Data Analyst, Place IQ

I think that the general population is not sufficiently aware of how little federal legislation is in place to defend against or deter cybersecurity attacks on both critical and non-critical infrastructure. In an effort to enhance our deterrence measures, President Trump has expanded the powers of the NSA to include offensive cyber hacking, but specificity surrounding the extent of that offensive response or cost on the attacker is lacking. Additionally, existing cybersecurity response and deterrence legislation is specific to national security bodies, rather than domestic infrastructure at large, which not only makes our citizens vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks on any company that has their private information, but also leaves them with no federally mandated immediate response in place to secure that information or respond to an attacker. These vulnerabilities in domestic infrastructure are widespread, making individual and private cybersecurity measures critical to securing information and minimizing vulnerability.

CGA RESPONDS: SAM POWERS
MSGA ’14; Information Discovery Professional

The weaponization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents the largest cyber threat that people are not significantly aware of. Machine learning models have shown the ability to impersonate humans and create messages and launch malware attacks more quickly than humans can. This will enable states and rogue actors to avoid “sandboxes” at a larger scale and amplify disinformation campaigns and direct cyber attacks. While analysts can capture web-based malware and create an anecdote, the agile nature of AI makes responding to an attack increasingly difficult. At the same time, vulnerabilities within autonomous weapons systems being developed by global powers must be properly understood and mitigated. Even if nation states agree not to use AI weapons in a conflict, non-state actors are likely to exploit vulnerabilities to carry our acts of terror and further political goals.
A COMPLEMENT TO THE MSGA

While the new MS in Global Security, Conflict, and Cybercrime will have a very different focus than the MS in Global Affairs, the similar approaches to the topics—practitioner-focused and with a global lens—means that students already enrolled in the MSGA degree will find opportunities within the course offerings in the MSGSCC that enhance their research and work.

Kissane, who leads the MSGA Concentration in Environment and Energy Policy, sees the new Masters as complementing the existing program “because it will offer yet another opportunity for our students to tap into the scholar-practitioners who will be teaching in the new MS as well as the new course work, which they will have access to. From my specific concentration, so much of the technology around energy is so critical.” She adds that courses such as Critical Infrastructure and Political Cyber Crime will let students “look at the role that cyber technology plays and will play in the energy and environmental space.”

The MS in Global Security, Conflict, and Cybercrime was conceived and developed over several years, but Kissane and the other faculty involved in its development foresee that time spent as being an investment in CGA’s capacity to fulfill its mission to educate a community to identify and respond to global challenges. While the nature of conflict and security itself may remain fundamentally unchanged, the ways in which cyber technologies have enabled conflict to escalate—and the opportunities it provides to manage global security—offer rich territory to examine in the new MS.

CGA RESPONDS:

PHILIP D. CALDWELL

MSGA Candidate

“Public discourse on cybersecurity has mostly centered on hacking and leaking of information. While this is an important risk area, the most important for the United States and its allies is suffering a large-scale cyber-attack that disrupts or destroys critical infrastructure vital to national security. There is a pressing need for the US and its allies to establish clear policy on how they will respond to cyber-attacks vis-a-vis other states. Attribution is frequently mentioned and can be useful, but it is only one solution in the toolbox and may not be effective if adversaries don’t care if they are exposed.

Similar to nuclear deterrence policy established with the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the 1960s, a serious discussion is needed at the highest levels of government to form a comprehensive strategic policy that articulates the US and its allies’ position on what responses they will take to large-scale cyber attacks.

Without clear policy around how the US and its allies will respond, whether it be in the cyber domain or by other means, the potential for strategic miscalculation and escalation of force in a crisis situation will remain high.”

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MS IN GLOBAL SECURITY, CONFLICT, AND CYBERCRIME

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Wednesday, February 6, 1:00–2:00 p.m.  
Online MSGSCC Information Session

Wednesday, February 20, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Woolworth Building, 15 Barclay Street

Wednesday, March 27, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
NYUSPS, 7 East 12th Street

Thursday, June 13, 6:00–8:00 p.m.  
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Students participating in the Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Northern Emirates Global Field Intensive in January 2018 pause to taste local honey. Photo courtesy of MSGA student Gabby Silberman.

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FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 5, 12:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Thursday, February 7, 6:30 p.m. (p. 7)
Justice, Conflict, and Development: Lessons from Transitioning Societies

Tuesday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. (p. 7)
Fundraising for Political and Civic Engagement

Tuesday, February 19, 12:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. (p. 7)
Russia and the US: Here We Go Again...

Monday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6)
International Careers in the United Nations and Multilateral Organizations

Tuesday, February 26, 12:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Is Poverty a Political Choice?: A Conversation with Philip Alston

MARCH

Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6)
International Careers in the Private Sector

Tuesday, March 5, 12:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Conflict, Security, and Development: Issues, Actors, and Approaches*

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6)
International Careers with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. (p. 6)
International Careers in the Public Sector and Government

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. (p. 8)
Blockchain and the Future of Humanitarian Assistance and International Development

Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m. (p. 9)
The South China Sea: US Foreign Policy Challenges and Geopolitical Impacts

APRIL

Monday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. (p. 10)
Great Power Conflicts in the Age of Cyber Insecurity

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. (p. 10)
The Future of OPEC

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. (p. 11)
Allison Schraeger: An Economist Walks into a Brothel and Other unexpected Places to Understand Risk

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. (p. 11)
Nonproliferation Policy in the Trump Era: Examining North Korea and Iran

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