



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL &
SECURITY STUDIES AT MARYLAND

UPDATE

CISSM Spring 2016 Newsletter

NEWS | CISSM awarded grant to crowdsource space object database

The CISSM project to crowdsource a comprehensive, open-access database of space objects received a boost when the University of Maryland awarded it with a \$50,000 seed grant to demonstrate the proof of concept.

Although some government and private organizations have databases with information about the location and orbit of some satellites, and sometimes about large pieces of debris, these databases are not comprehensive. For example, even the catalogue of space objects maintained by the U.S. Air Force has major gaps in coverage, particularly regarding small objects and objects in orbit around parts of the southern hemisphere. Additionally, access to this catalogue is carefully controlled.

The CISSM project, which is a collaboration with the university's [Center for Orbital Debris Education and Research \(CODER\)](#), will draw on connections to scientists, civil society groups, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and amateur astronomers around the world to compile an open-access database alternative that could improve overall awareness of the space environment, particularly regarding objects and orbits that are not well captured in current data, and ensure greater access to all available data.

One of the project's major challenges will be the development of software for a "Universal Translator" to convert raw data from different sources into a standard format and to store them in a web-based, searchable, and downloadable archive.

"This project is a pragmatic way to increase transparency and build confidence among parties working in or on space," said CISSM Interim Director [Nancy Gallagher](#). "The potential benefits far outweigh the potential downsides of sharing more information about space objects." [Read more.](#)

CISSM study finds broad-based support for Rouhani post parliamentary elections

A new CISSM poll of Iranians, "Iranian Public Attitudes Before & After Parliamentary Elections," finds that in the wake of the parliamentary election, Rouhani is in a strong position with the Iranian public. Sixty-three percent say they voted for candidates who support Rouhani, while just 22% say they voted for his critics. Rouhani's support is not limited to voters who favored the Reformist group. Even among those who voted for the conservative Principlist group, 50% said they voted for pro-Rouhani candidates, as did 81% of pro-Reformist voters and 61% of voters for independents. [Read more.](#)



CISSM named among top 50 academic think tanks in the world

CISSM was named one of the top 50 academic think tanks in the world in the 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Ranking. The ranking presents the collective judgment of 4,677 think tank researchers, journalists, policy makers, and philanthropists from more than 140 countries, as well as the Index's panel of experts. [Read more.](#)

SPP students present research with support from Steinbruner Student Support Fund

Financial support from the [Steinbruner Student Support Fund](#) enabled one current and one former doctoral student from the School of Public Policy to present their research at the 2016 annual International Studies Association meeting, which was held in Atlanta from March 16-19, 2016. [Read more.](#)

Q & A with Jincui Zhang, CISSM Visiting Scholar

CISSM welcomed visiting scholar, [Jincui Zhang](#), an associate professor of International Relations at the School of Social Sciences, Shanghai University. She is also a Fellow of the Center for Global Studies of Shanghai University. Dr. Zhang will be visiting the school until the end of 2016. CISSM sat down with Dr. Zhang to learn about her research interests and her plans for her year at the school. [Read more.](#)

UMD recognizes Gallagher's contributions to public understanding of Iran nuclear negotiations

CISSM Interim Director Nancy Gallagher was awarded a 2015 Research Communicator Impact Award from the University of Maryland Division of Research for her contributions to public understanding of the international negotiations about Iran's nuclear program. [Read more.](#)

Recent publications by CISSM researchers

Catherine Kelleher, "[Answer Trump's criticisms with a stronger NATO.](#)" *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 17, 2016.

Nancy Gallagher, "[Re-thinking the Unthinkable: Arms Control in the Twenty-First Century.](#)" *The Nonproliferation Review*, April 07, 2016.

Theresa Hitchens, "[A Pause Button for Militarizing Space.](#)" *Aerospace America*, April 01, 2016.

Nancy Gallagher, Ebrahim Mohseni, Clay Ramsay, "[Iranian Public Attitudes Before & After Parliamentary Elections.](#)" CISSM Report, March 31, 2016.

Nilsu Goren, "[House Gifts, Gift Baskets, and the Gift of Nuclear Security after 2016.](#)" Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Roundtable, March 25, 2016.

Milton Leitenberg, "[China's False Allegations of the Use of Biological Weapons by the United States during the Korean War.](#)" Cold War International History Project Working Paper, March 01, 2016.

Davin O'Regan, "[Legal Harvest and Illegal Trade: Trends, Challenges, and Options in Khat Production in Ethiopia.](#)" *International Journal of Drug Policy*, February 18, 2016.

Nancy Gallagher, Ebrahim Mohseni, Clay Ramsay, "[Iranian Attitudes in Advance of the Parliamentary Elections: Economics, Politics, and Foreign Affairs](#)," CISSM Report, February 03, 2016.

Madiha Afzal, "[What's the Relationship between Education, Income, and Favoring the Pakistani Taliban?](#)" Brookings Institution Future Development Blog, October 19, 2015.

Nancy Gallagher, "[Should the U.S. Cooperate with Russia on Syria and ISIS?](#)" Carnegie Corporation Roundtable, October 01, 2015.

Catherine Kelleher, "[Regional Missile Defense from a Global Perspective](#)," Stanford University Press, September 14, 2015.

Nancy Gallagher, "[Congress and Missile Defense](#)," a chapter in *Regional Missile Defense from a Global Perspective*, September 14, 2015.

Upcoming CISSM-related events

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| April 20, 2016 | CISSM Special Event A screening of " A Walk in the Woods " |
| April 21, 2016 | CISSM Forum/Development Circle " Snatching Victory From the Jaws of Defeat: U.S.-Russia Cooperation to Eliminate Syria's Chemical Weapons " Amy Gordon |
| April 21, 2016 | CISSM Special Event " A Surrogates Foreign Policy Debate " Lawrence Korb and Derek Chollet |
| April 28, 2016 | CISSM Forum/Development Circle " Balancing Belligerents or Feeding the Beast: Escaping Conflict Traps " Nancy Hayden |

About CISSM

The Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM) at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy conducts research, education, and outreach about how powerful trends associated with globalization are affecting international security. It focuses on strategies to increase international cooperation, especially where powerful technologies—with both beneficial and dangerous uses—are becoming widely available to states and non-state actors. [Contact CISSM](#).

Support CISSM

[CISSM's Target of Opportunity Fund](#) supports exploratory research, education, and outreach efforts on security policy problems for which CISSM does not currently have dedicated grant funding.

The [Steinbruner Student Support Fund](#) provides financial support for research and professional development activities by School of Public Policy students working on any policy problem related to cooperative security.

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