

The Technology and Culture Forum @ MIT

Annual Report 2011-2012

Minding the Gap

This spring, we sponsored a forum called Minding the Gap. It was the second installation of a series on economic injustice, created in response to the Occupy Wall Street protests. For both programs we invited leading economists to reflect on the moral implications of financial theories and practice, a public conversation often too rare. This is what T&C does, year in and out. We identify and apply rigorous thinking to gaps in public discourse, gaps with consequences that we mind.

Conversations About Economic Inequality



Left: Peter Diamond listens as Frank Levy makes a plea for a level playground. Above: Arjun Jayadev (UMASS) and MIT's David Autor, Peter Diamond and Frank Levy discuss the consequences of increasing economic inequality in the U.S.

We need the federal government to pump more money through the states and local governments into education.
--Peter Diamond

We should invest in job-training opportunities for high school graduates.
--David Autor

The playing field is tilted right from the beginning...
We have to start with Kindergarten!
--Frank Levy



Tom Kochan, Sloan Professor of Management and former MIT Faculty Chair

At our fall program, *Wall Street in Context: Strategies for Restoring the Dignity of the 99%*, Tom Kochan, Director of the Institute for Work and Employment Research at MIT Sloan School and Mike Piore, MIT Economics, joined forces with Occupy Boston leadership to talk about the history of protest in the U.S. and to brainstorm strategies for reversing the trend.

A Decade Later



Miroslav Volf, Founder and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture

Marking the 10th Anniversary of the attacks on the twin towers, T&C sponsored two forums examining the state of Muslim - Christians relations in the U.S. Noted Yale Theologian, Miroslav Volf, asked us to consider whether pluralism as a political project might lead to greater peace.



Episcopal Bishop Tom Shaw introduced Dr. Volf to a packed T&C house

After 9/11, the Episcopal Cathedral became a haven for a suddenly vulnerable Muslim community. Area Muslims still gather there for Ju'mah, every Friday.



Naila Baloch, Muslim Chaplain, Tufts University



In December Naila Baloch, Muslim chaplain at Tufts, Jep Streit, Episcopal Cathedral Dean, and visitors from the controversial Roxbury Mosque offered their reflections at *Muslim Communities and the Post-9/11 Interfaith Landscape*. Baloch, raised in a household of both Shi'as and Sunnis, shared how the events of that day inspired her to pursue Muslim chaplaincy in the U.S.

Students Take the Lead

end violence



Four years ago an MIT graduate student, **Yoda Patta**, came to T&C seeking assistance in launching a series that would examine issues of violence against women. Through panels, dinner discussions, IAP events, films, lectures, performances and exhibits, *end violence*, which grew out of that series, has become a powerful force for good at MIT. Strengthened by partnerships with the MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies and MIT Medical, this initiative has raised the awareness of gender-rooted violence among hundreds of MIT students and faculty. In 2009 *end violence* was chosen as a site for the Graduate Community Fellows Program. This year's Fellow, **Laura Schmitz**, has done a terrific job and we are thrilled that she will be staying on for a second year.

This summer, PhD in hand, Yoda leaves for California knowing that *end violence* will endure, having been officially embraced by the Program in Violence Prevention and Response at MIT Medical, the initiative's new home. VPR Program Manager, Kelley Adams, remains deeply committed to the continued flourishing of *end violence*, Yoda's gift to MIT.

Yoda, thank you and congratulations from all of us!

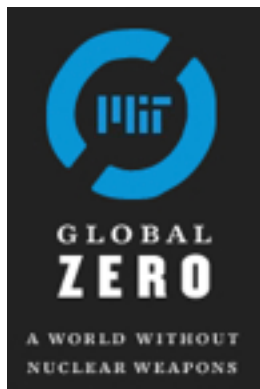
International Development @ MIT

In 2002 **Fleming Ray G '03**, a member of the Lutheran Episcopal Ministry and the T&C Steering Committee, noticed that, although many MIT labs and programs were deeply involved in international development, there was no centralized hub connecting them with each other. In response, on September 20, 2002, the MIT International Development Fair was born. Co-sponsored with the Public Service Center and the Graduate Student Council, and guided by an active student advising committee, the annual ID Fair became vibrant and robust. International development is now a formal part of the Institute landscape in the form of The International Development Initiative at MIT. Today, T&C co-sponsors two annual programs with IDI, the fall ID Fair and the spring ID Night @the MIT Museum.



A PDF of *The Guide to International Development at MIT*, a joint publication of T&C and IDI, is available at our website: <http://web.mit.edu/tac>. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the guide, please call 617-253-0108 or email us at weinmann@mit.edu.

Global Zero @ MIT



What if we could build a movement here at MIT to help eliminate the global nuclear threat? What if we could work together for a world without nuclear weapons? These questions inspired **Sam Brinton**, G Nuclear Engineering and **Mint Wongviriyawong**, G Mechanical Engineering to form an official MIT chapter of Global Zero, an international organization dedicated to the elimination of nuclear weapons. When they approached Physics Professor Aron Bernstein for assistance, he responded, "T&C! Go to T&C and they'll help you." In May, the MIT Program in Security Studies, in cooperation with MIT GZ, announced the creation of the first George W. Rathjens \$1,000 Non-Proliferation Prize, to be given to a student for research, analysis or artistic expression which aims to reduce nuclear proliferation. Sam, an active member of the Lutheran Episcopal Ministry and a T&C Steering Committee Member, announced the prize at our May 2nd event.

MIT GZ Activities planned for 2012-2013 include a film series, monthly dinner discussions, panel presentations and lectures. Visit the new MIT Global Zero web page at <http://web.mit.edu/mitglobalzero>.

T&C PROGRAMS 2011-2012

September 30, 2011
**THE 10TH ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FAIR**

Co-hosted with MIT's
International Development
Initiative



October 27, 2011
**SURVEILLANCE AND
CITIZENSHIP**

Sandra Braman, *University of
Wisconsin, Milwaukee*
Susan Landau, *Visiting
Professor, Harvard University*
Marcus Novak, *University of
California, Santa Barbara*

Moderator: Ethan Zuckerman,
MIT Center for Civic Media

Co-sponsored with the MIT
Communications Forum

October 28-November 2, 2011
**OCCUPY HALLOWEEN:
DON'T BUY INTO
RACIST, SEXIST
PRE-PACKAGED
COSTUMES!**

Co-sponsored with end violence,
*MIT Program in Women's and
Gender Studies, Graduate
Women at MIT and the Lutheran
Episcopal Ministry at MIT*

November 2, 2011
**RELIGIOUS PLURALISM
IN POST-9/11 AMERICA**

Miroslav Volf, *The Yale Center
for Faith and Culture*
The Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Shaw,
SSJE, *The Episcopal Diocese of
Massachusetts*

Co-sponsored with the Addir
Fellows Interfaith Program

November 8, 2011
**WALL STREET IN
CONTEXT: STRATEGIES
FOR RESTORING THE
DIGNITY OF THE 99%**

Pete Cannon, *Occupy Boston*
Marisa Egerstrom, *Occupy
Boston, Harvard*
Mel King, *MIT DUSP*
Thomas Kochan, *MIT Sloan*
Michael Piore, *MIT Economics*

Moderator:
Jonathan King, *MIT Biology*

November 15, 2011
**THE TRUE COST OF
COAL: THE BEEHIVE
DESIGN COLLECTIVE**

Co-hosted with the Grad Arts
Forum and the Council for the
Arts at MIT

November 15, 2011
**THE SECOND ARAB
AWAKENING:
CHALLENGES AND
PROMISE**

Dr. Marwan Muasher,
*Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace*

Co-hosted with the Emile
Bustani Middle East Seminar
and the MIT Center for
International Studies

November 16, 2011
**ARAB-JEWISH PEACE
BUILDING PROJECTS:
CAN THEY MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**

Harriet Feinberg, *Middle East
peace activist and educator*

Co-sponsored with MISTI MIT-
MEET and the Lutheran
Episcopal Ministry at MIT

November 17, 2011
**FILM SCREENING - WE
STILL LIVE HERE: ÂS
NUTAYUNEÂN**

Co-sponsored with Women's and
Gender Studies, The Office of
Minority Education, The Office
of Student Activities and MIT
Linguistics

November 21, 2011
**FILM SCREENING -
MISS REPRESENTATION**

Co-sponsored with end violence
and Graduate Women at MIT

December 11, 2011
**A DECADE LATER:
MUSLIM
COMMUNITIES AND THE
POST-9/11 INTERFAITH
LANDSCAPE**

Ibrahim Abdul Malik, *Park 51,
Advisory Board*
Naila Baloch, *Muslim Chaplain,
Tufts University*
Suheil Laher, *Muslim Chaplain,
MIT*
The Very Rev. Jeph Streit, *Dean,
The Cathedral Church of St.
Paul, Boston*

Co-sponsored with the Addir
Fellows Interfaith Program

February 13, 2012
**THE NORTH AFRICAN
'ARAB SPRING': DAYS
OF RAGE, DREAMS OF
TRESPASS**

Dr. William Lawrence, *North
Africa Program for
International Crisis Group*

Co-sponsored with the Emile
Bustani Middle East Seminar

March 13, 2012
**MINDING THE GAP: A
CONVERSATION
ABOUT ECONOMIC
INEQUALITY**

David Autor, *MIT Economics*
Peter Diamond, *MIT Economics*
Arjun Jayadev, *UMASS
Economics*
Frank Levy, *MIT DUSP*

April 10, 2012
**IRAN: DOMESTIC
TURMOIL AND
DRUMBEATS OF WAR**

Dr. Ali Banuazizi, *Boston
College, Program of Islamic
Civilization and Societies*

Co-Sponsored with the Emile
Bustani Middle East Seminar



April 14, 2012
**INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT NIGHT
@ THE MIT MUSEUM**

Co-hosted with MIT's
International Development
Initiative

April 17, 2012
**MY 5 DINNERS WITH
AHMADINEJAD: IRAN,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS &
THE MIDDLE EAST**

Dr. Jim Walsh, *MIT Security
Studies Program*

Co-sponsored with the MIT
Center for International Studies
and MIT Global Zero



May 2, 2012
**NUCLEAR POWER AND
NUCLEAR WEAPONS:
ASIA, THE MIDDLE
EAST AND THE FUTURE
OF NONPROLIFERATION**

Matthew Bunn, *Harvard,
Science and International
Affairs*
Jon Wolfsthal, *National Security
Council, Director for
Nonproliferation*

Moderator: Richard Lester, *MIT
Nuclear Science and
Engineering*

Co-sponsored with MIT Global
Zero, Nuclear Science and
Engineering, and the MIT
Security Studies Program

May 12, 2012
**6TH ANNUAL YOUTH
SUMMIT ON GLOBAL
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Co-sponsored with the Boston
Latin School's Youth Climate
Action Network (YouthCAN), the
Boston Public Health
Commission's Boston
Collaborative for Food and
Fitness, and the Boston Youth
Environment Network

Undergraduate Seminar Focuses on Ethics and Literature



Professor Ruth Perry

Drawing on the success of the spring T&C Undergraduate Ethics Seminar, “*Being, Thinking, Doing (Or Not): Ethics and Your Life*,” we decided to offer a fall undergraduate seminar this year. Co-taught by Literature Professor and T&C Steering Committee member, Ruth Perry and MIT Philosophy Professor, Rae Langton, “*Doing Right: Literature and Ethics*,” was a big success! Through the lenses of short novels and long stories, Langton and Perry led sixteen undergraduates through an exploration of complex ethical issues such as self-protection and altruism, inflexible rules and justice, selfhood and the needs of the community, and the human costs of technological development.

During the spring semester we invited the broader MIT community into monthly ethical conversations about such topics as the nature of happiness and the relationship between ethics and religion. These popular and well-attended programs included a featured speaker and a shared meal. Given the enthusiastic reception of this program and format, we plan to host more community ethics dinners in the future.



Professor Rae Langton

A special thanks to **James Hardigg '45** for his generous support of our ethics seminars and dinners.



Johnny with former MIT Episcopal chaplains Amy McCreath, Scott Paradise and Jane Gould, as they celebrated T&C's 40th on March 31, 2004.

The Rev. John Crocker, Jr.
October 19, 1923 - December 30, 2011
MIT Episcopal Chaplain and
Coordinator of the Technology and Culture
Seminar, 1969-1977

John (Johnny) Crocker, Jr., Episcopal Chaplain and
Coordinator of the Technology and Culture Forum from
1969 to 1977, died on December 30, 2011 in
Cambridge, MA.

Johnny lived his life committed to the ideals of justice. Under Johnny's leadership, T&C began its transformation from a faculty seminar to a public forum, open to the MIT community and the community at large. In 1971, in the 25th report for his Harvard class, Rev. Crocker wrote, "...there is hope and we all know it. Only those afraid of change are scared and angry. Fear is at the root of most of our failures to love, to do justly, and to walk humbly with the rest of mankind and with God." May T&C continue to...."love, to do justly, and to walk humbly...." and further the work of The Rev. John Crocker, Jr.

Annual Support

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Education, the Office of the
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Gender Studies, the MIT Office
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Forum, the MIT Museum, the
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Program and the Lutheran
Episcopal Ministry at MIT*

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The Technology & Culture Forum at MIT

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STEERING COMMITTEE

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