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Carnegie Ethics

Carnegie Council's Newsletter on Ethical Action and Insights

November 8, 2021

On The Frontlines of Democracy

In Carnegie Council's special [Global Ethics Day](#) roundtable, "[On The Frontlines of Democracy](#)," *Foreign Policy's* Jennifer Williams asked panelists: Why is democracy worth fighting for?

"People are being arrested for standing up for their rights. People are being arrested and tortured for speaking about truth. I think democratic values are very important," said Burma Campaign UK's Wai Hnin Pwint Thon. "It is part of our job and individual duty to uphold these values and hold leaders accountable if they stray from the path as well."

Nathan Law, Hong Kong democratic activist and former legislator, followed up by reminding us just how fleeting democracy can be. "In Hong Kong's case you can really see that—a city once so free, but without the protection of democracy, without holding the government accountable, your freedom and your rule of law can be lost in just one year, in just a glimpse."

The roundtable also featured Joel Rosenthal, president of Carnegie Council; Alfredo Romero, president of Venezuelan human rights organizations Foro Penal; and Franak Viačorka, senior advisor to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of democratic Belarus. [Watch](#), [listen to](#), or [read](#) the transcript of the event on Carnegie Council's website.

News from Our Impact Initiatives

Carnegie Council's **Artificial Intelligence & Equality Initiative (AIEI)** posted several new podcasts on the promise and limitations of the application of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. First, Robust.AI founder and CEO [Gary Marcus](#) and Carnegie Council Senior Fellow [Anja Kaspersen](#) had an [honest discussion](#) on the challenges that deep learning and AI systems face, especially in ensuring that these technologies become an ethical public good. Next, former U.S. Navy pilot Mary "Missy" Cummings, director of Duke University's Humans and Autonomy Lab, touched on [conundrums in AI research](#) and how to make sure humans are not a design afterthought. Finally, Twitter's [Rumman Chowdhury](#) and

NYU Center for Responsible AI's [Mona Sloane](#) addressed [key tension points](#) and narratives impacting how AI systems are procured and embedded in the public sector.

Additionally, AIEI fellows and staff wrote several insight pieces covering different facets of AI ethics. Senior Fellow [Wendell Wallach](#) [asked important questions](#) like, why are we interested in AI ethics? Do we merely want to get better at using the language of ethics to justify the things we're doing anyway? Also, University of Melbourne's [Kobi Leins](#) reflected on the implications of the first state passing legislation on [neurotechnology](#) that can manipulate one's mind. And, on Global Ethics Day 2021, AIEI launched "The Technosocial Contract." This new content series will examine the 21st century relationship between technologies & society. Don't miss the [first](#) and [second](#) articles from Thomas Philbeck, AIEI senior program advisor. For more on AIEI, visit [carnegieaie.org](#).

The **U.S. Global Engagement (USGE)** initiative hosted a [virtual event](#) with the first female deputy secretary general of NATO, [Rose Gottemoeller](#), on her new book *Negotiating the New START Treaty*. Gottemoeller joined Senior Fellows [Tatiana Serafin](#) and Nikolas Gvosdev to provide an invaluable insider's account of the negotiations between the U.S. and Russian delegations in Geneva in 2009 and 2010 and the crucial discussions between President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev. Gvosdev and Serafin also published two new episodes of [The Doorstep](#) podcast, which premieres every other Thursday. They discussed the [rise in popular conservatism](#) across Latin America and how new evangelical-church-supported, anti-establishment leaders are winning elections in the region with Argentine Council for International Relations' [Francisco de Santibañes](#). Additionally, they spoke with FutureMap's [Parag Khanna](#) about how governments can become [better stewards of natural resources](#) as the number of climate migrants continues to increase. Join the conversation by following [@DoorstepPodcast](#) on Twitter.

The **Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G)** has been actively participating in various international conferences on the role of governance in the application of technologies used to alter the climate. Executive Director [Janos Pasztor](#) and an international panel of experts will be discussing the "The governance needed for solar radiation modification" in a virtual event hosted by the Paris Peace Forum on November 13 at 3:30 CET. You can also find out more about C2G's project to strengthen multilateral governance for SRM: Governing Solar Radiation Modification on the Paris Peace Forum's digital platform between November 11-13. [Click here to sign up](#) before registration closes on November 9. Also, at this year's Climate Change Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) held in Glasgow, C2G joined forces with CO2GeoNet for a [side-event](#) to discuss ideas on accelerating along the transformative pathway to net zero with large-scale carbon dioxide removal and storage. Additionally, C2G discussed the governance gaps and challenges of the potential use of stratospheric aerosol injection technologies at the [Arctic Circle Assembly](#).

Don't miss the *C2G*Talk podcast series with episodes airing every Monday on Carnegie Council's [website](#), [YouTube](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [Spotify](#). Also, the initiative welcomes your feedback on their products and activities by asking for your participation in this [stakeholder survey](#). Follow the work of C2G directly by visiting [c2g2.net](#) or by following [@C2G2net](#) on Twitter.

Events & Multimedia

Upcoming Event:

Almost half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the energy used to produce, process, transport, and dispose of the food we eat and the goods we use. On [November 17](#) at 6:00PM ET, tune in to a virtual event with Senior Fellows Tatiana Serafin & Nikolas Gvosdev as they discuss with *Castaway Mountain* author Saumya Roy how Mumbai's forgotten community living and working on the Deonar garbage mountains reflects the massive problem of waste around the world

From the *Ethics & International Affairs* journal:

What are the ethical limits to vaccine nationalism? In [this article](#), [Dr. Ezekiel J. Emanuel](#) and co-authors propose the fair priority for residents (FPR) framework, in which governments can retain COVID-19 vaccine doses for their residents only to the extent that they are needed to maintain a non-crisis level of mortality while they are implementing reasonable public health interventions. To access the full article, please visit [Cambridge Core](#).

Also, the editors of *Ethics & International Affairs* released the [Fall 2021](#) issue of the journal. The highlight of this issue is a book [symposium](#) on Ned Dobos' *Ethics, Security, and the War Machine*. Additionally, the issue includes a [feature article](#) on the reduced legal equality of combatants in war; an [essay](#) on ethical AI, gender equality, and illiberal backlash politics; a [review essay](#) on the global politics of health security; and much more. For more from the journal, visit [ethicsandinternationalaffairs.org](#).

In Case You Missed It:

In a [new episode](#) of the *Global Ethics Review* podcast, [Suchhitra Vijayan](#), author of the new book *Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India*, discusses her 9,000-mile journey through India's borderlands and the violent history of the 1947 partition.

In [an interview](#) with Carnegie New Leaders (CNL) President Samantha Jordan, Ilya Kursenko, CNL and Master's student at Saint Petersburg State University in Russia, talks about international affairs in the context of Plato and his personal experience as a Russian student experiencing life in the United States.



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