

Agenda - 2025 Emerging Technologies Symposium

8:00-9:00 am	<i>Check-In, Networking, & Coffee</i>
9:00-9:15 am	Opening Remarks Jim Steinberg , Dean of the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
9:15-9:30 am	Welcome: Olga Belogolova and Thomas Rid
9:30-10:30 am	A live podcast taping “ Geopolitics Decanted ” by Silverado Podcast with Dmitri Alperovitch featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Buchanan, Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with the Alperovitch Institute, former White House Special Advisor on AI, author of <i>The New Fire</i>, <i>The Hacker and the State</i>, and <i>The Cybersecurity Dilemma</i>
10:30-11:00 am	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00-12:00 pm	Panel 1: Fueling the Technology of the Future
	<p>This panel will explore the AI triad—data, compute, and algorithms— and the foundational technologies that make AI possible. From the energy demands of AI-driven data centers to the semiconductor supply chains powering computation, panelists will discuss the critical investments and innovations needed to sustain AI’s growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Breckenfeld, Director of Technology Policy from NVIDIA • Mark Dredze, John C. Malone professor of computer science at Johns Hopkins University and Director of Research (Foundations of AI) for the JHU Data Science and AI Institute • Benjamin Della Rocca, former Director for Technology and National Security at the White House • Benjamin Schwartz, Managing Head of Infrastructure Partnerships and Policy at OpenAI • Moderator: Melissa Griffith, Lecturer in Technology and National Security at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with the Alperovitch Institute
12:00-1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00-2:00 pm	Panel 2: Disruptive Tech and Conflict
	<p>This panel will examine the impact of cybersecurity, AI, autonomous weapons, and space technologies on modern conflict. From Ukraine to Israel, how is technology influencing everything from intelligence collection to precision strikes and cyber operations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radha Plumb, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Perry World House, senior fellow at the Wharton Accountable Artificial Intelligence Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, former Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer at the Department of Defense • Joshua Marcuse, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Google Public Sector, former Executive Director of the Defense Innovation Board • Thomas Rid, Professor of Strategic Studies and founding director of the Alperovitch Institute for Cybersecurity Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS • Jane Pinelis, chief AI engineer of the Applied Information Sciences Branch at Johns Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) • Moderator: Joshua White, Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS



2:00-3:00 pm	Panel 3: From Lab to Market
	<p>This panel will explore the economics of innovation, examining how emerging technologies like AI, biotech, and space are disrupting markets, redefining global competition, and influencing economic growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henry Farrell, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute Professor of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS); Author, “Underground Empire: How America Weaponized the World Economy”• Alex Poulin, Partner, Lavrock Ventures• Chris Morales, Partner on the Investment Team at Point72 Ventures• Alison Perez, Partner, Lockheed Martin Ventures• Moderator: Chenny Zhang, Director at Cerberus Ventures, former Principal at In-Q-Tel and former China portfolio lead at the Pentagon’s Defense Innovation Board (DIB)
3:00-3:30 pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>
3:30-4:30 pm	Panel 4: The New Power Brokers
	<p>Once the domain of governments, technological breakthroughs—from the space race to the internet—have increasingly shifted into the hands of the private sector. Today, AI is driven by corporations, not states, and space commerce is being redefined by private industry. This panel will examine the power shift between governments, federally funded research, industry, and regulators, asking: Who gets to shape the future of innovation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perri Adams, Special Assistant to the Director at DARPA and Adjunct Professor with The Alperovitch Institute• Emily Frye, Director of Integration, Center for Securing the Homeland, MITRE• Chase Hamilton, Attorney, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP• Moderator: Olga Belogolova, Director of the Emerging Technologies Initiative at Johns Hopkins SAIS and Lecturer with The Alperovitch Institute
4:30-4:45 pm	Closing Remarks
5:00-7:30 pm	Drinks and Networking - Terrace