

THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
FULCRUM GLOBAL
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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Issue #13
October 17, 2025

Dear SDSS Membership,

The SDSS October 2025 Movie and Lecture Screening Series is occurring later this month where we will be screening videos dealing with an assortment of topics and themes that pertain to national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs. These will be viewed together via Zoom and after each screening we will have group discussions as well as sharing perspectives on the material. If you can't make a group screening on Zoom, you can feel free to watch it on your own and the links will be provided for each YouTube video. However, this is a great opportunity to hang out, meet, and discuss the content with fellow SDSS members too. Also, this is a great opportunity to network with potential friends and peers in your respected areas.

The information for each video and Zoom access is listed below. We look forward to meeting you at these events and discussing thoughts and insights at these screenings.

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler
SDSS President

SDSS Afternoon Movie Series:

1. October 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time

“Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011)”

- **Description:** In 1970s England the head of MI6, Control (John Hurt), dispatches an agent (Mark Strong) to meet with a Hungarian general who knows the identity of a Soviet spy in the organization's ranks. However, the mission goes wrong, and the general dies before he can reveal the information. Undersecretary Oliver Lacon (Simon McBurney) calls veteran agent George Smiley (Gary Oldman) back from forced retirement to ferret out the mole and stop the flow of vital British secrets to the Russians. Based on the *John le Carre* novel.
- **Group Viewing Time:** 2:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88373468495?pwd=q0N8JBiKBiaXV8qGcqpmVuJ7JhhbeG.1>

SDSS Video Screening Series from the International Spy Museum

1. October 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time

"Propaganda Girls w/ Lisa Rogak"

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 3:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81711670928?pwd=0uaQRYchwEHsKOGhhUMbY9XhbQLILD.1>
- **Description:** Discover the true stories of four extraordinary women who fought one of WWII's most covert and successful military campaigns,

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without firing a single shot. Their weapon? Psychological warfare that broke the enemy's morale from within.

- **Learn about:**
 - ▶ How these OSS operatives created devastating propaganda campaigns
 - ▶ How author Lisa Rogak wrote the book and got it published
 - ▶ Stories of forged letters, fake newspapers, and psychological operations
 - ▶ The heroes: Zuzka Lauwers, Marlene Dietrich, Elizabeth MacDonald, and Jane Smith-Hutton
- **YouTube Video Link:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgUNuluBtZU&t=402s>

2. October 19, 2025 at 4:30 PM Eastern Time

"Queen of Codes w/ Dr. Jackie Ui Chionna"

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 4:30 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81711670928?pwd=0uaQRYchwEHsKOGhhUMbY9XhbQLILD.1>
- **Description:** Discover Britain's greatest female codebreaker! Join Dr. Jackie Uí Chionna for a virtual talk on Emily Anderson, the unsung hero of British intelligence during both World Wars.
- **YouTube Video Link:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8yudolXqcq>

3. October 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM Eastern Time

"To Catch a Drug Cartel" Spycast

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 6:30 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84491588317?pwd=wFz40wTbOBUObKFYMcY36yaQb9hhAc.1>

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- **Description:** In this episode, SpyCast Host Sasha Ingber brings you the extraordinary story of Keith Bulfin, a New Zealand banker whose mysterious client (supposedly a coffee importer but actually a banker for drug cartels) led to his arrest and imprisonment.

While serving time in one of Australia's most dangerous prison units, Bulfin befriended Mexican cartel leaders and was eventually recruited by the U.S. Department of Justice to operate a covert banking operation, secretly feeding intelligence to the American government. Keith tells the incredible tale of survival, deception, and unlikely espionage that blurs the line between criminal and informant.

- **Learn about:**

- ➔ How the cartel got interested in Bulfin
- ➔ What it's like to be a banker for the cartel
- ➔ How cartels operate like a corporation
- ➔ The influence cartels have on the Mexican government
- ➔ The Mexican cartel's intelligence units

- **YouTube Video Link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzkOEdEos0E>

4. October 21, 2025 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time "Dark Web Broker" Spycast

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 8:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84491588317?pwd=wFz40wTbOBUObKFYMcY36yaQb9hhAc.1>
- **Description:** SpyCast Host Sasha Ingber sits down with Vinny Troia, a veteran hacker who sells sensitive data to law enforcement and intelligence agencies like the CIA. Troia explains how he develops relationships with cyber actors, and brokers deals to keep digital secrets from ending up in the wrong hands.
- **Learn about:**
 - ➔ Brokering deals with hackers to sell data back to a company
 - ➔ The ethical concerns around selling stolen data

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- ➔ How Vinny Troia got started in this line of work
- ➔ The dark web and message boards where hackers connect with clients

- **YouTube Video Link:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjRcs_oxyYg

5. October 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM Eastern Time "Catching an Iranian-American Missile Broker" Spycast

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 6:30 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738657271?pwd=wrhJ7aQHQkWiJfTe1dRxqZ82aRmbJO.1>
- **Description:** In this gripping episode, former DEA Special Agent Jeffrey James Higgins reveals how he uncovered one of the most audacious Iranian spy operations on American soil. By 2011, Reza Olangian wasn't just passing secrets; he was attempting to acquire hundreds of surface-to-air missiles for Iran.
- **Learn about:**
 - ➔ How DEA agents surveilled Olangian
 - ➔ Reza's confession that he had previously tried to obtain plutonium and a nuclear trigger
 - ➔ How the DEA created an effective cover to collect intelligence on Olangian
 - ➔ The attempt to get Olangian to cooperate with US agencies once he had been arrested
- **YouTube Video Link:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExQ4pKx5wu8>

6. October 23, 2025 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time

"The Wagner Group: Russia's Shadow Army"

- SDSS October Viewing Series at the International Spy Museum
- **Group Viewing Time:** 8:00 PM Eastern Time
- **Zoom Access Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738657271?pwd=wrhJ7aQHQkWjlfTe1dRxqZ82aRmbJO.1>
- **Description:** Dive deep into the shadowy world of Russia's Wagner Group with leading experts who've tracked this notorious private military company from its rise to Prigozhin's dramatic fall.

Join award-winning POLITICO reporter Amy Mackinnon as she moderates a powerhouse panel featuring:

- Colin P. Clarke - Senior Research Fellow at The Soufan Center and author of the forthcoming "Moscow's Mercenaries"
- Candace Rondeaux - Senior Director of Future Frontlines and Planetary Politics at New America and author of "Putin's Sledgehammer"

Learn about:

- ➔ How Wagner's impact has reshaped global conflict
 - ➔ How Prigozhin went from Putin's caterer to leader of the Wagner Group
 - ➔ What's next for Russian private warfare
 - ➔ Prigozhin's failed rebellion
- **YouTube Video Link:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXBa3w3ESjk>

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E-mail:

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Hours:

Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Fulcrum Global Articles, Intelligence Briefs, and Write for Us!

As you know that [Fulcrum Global](#) is the digital media platform for SDSS and has served as a hub for its projects in both the physical and digital domain, we ask you to spend some time [checking out the website](#). Also, we encourage you to submit a draft for a feature article, SitRep, background report, or a proposal for an intelligence brief that will go through an in-depth peer review and editing process. [Click here for more info about submitting something and we'll get back to you on it!](#)

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