

Dr. Nadya T. Bliss



Areas of expertise

- National Security
- Research and development
- Advanced technology development
- Computer science
- Applied mathematics
- Interdisciplinary research
- Cybersecurity
- Disinformation
- Graph and network analysis
- Advanced and high performance computing
- Sociotechnical computing

Executive Director of the Global Security Initiative at Arizona State University

Dr. Nadya T. Bliss is the Executive Director of the Global Security Initiative at Arizona State University. In this capacity, she leads a pan-university organization advancing research, education, and other programming in support of national and global security.

Bliss is an experienced leader of science and technology organizations with nearly two decades of experience in the defense and security sector. She has demonstrated expertise in growing mission focused research organizations, deep knowledge of the technology transition pipeline, and significant experience identifying advanced research capabilities to address mission and application needs.

She has more than 80 publications to her credit, holds two patents, and is a sought-after invited speaker around topics related to technology development and national security. She has appeared on PBS and NPR, and in the Christian Science Monitor, Slate, Phoenix Business Journal and CIO Review.

GSI serves as the University's main interface to the Department of Defense (DoD), Intelligence Community (IC), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). GSI is home to the Center for Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics, Center for Human, Artificial Intelligence, and Robot Teaming, DHS Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Working Group. GSI's team includes approximately 150 faculty affiliates and 30 staff. GSI core research programs contribute approximately \$35M to ASU's annual external research expenditures.

Prior to leading GSI, Bliss spent time as an Assistant Vice President, Research Strategy at ASU and a decade in various positions at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, most recently as the founding Group Leader of the Computing and Analytics Group. In that role, she oversaw all of the Laboratory's high-performance computing, along with a portfolio of programs focused on advanced analytics and computer architectures for DoD and IC mission needs.

Bliss is a Professor of Practice and Graduate Faculty in ASU's School of Computing, Informatics, and Decision Systems Engineering. She is a Senior Sustainability Scientist in the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability and a Senior Fellow at New America.

She is actively involved in advisory boards and national committees, and currently serves as an Executive Committee member of the Computing Community Consortium and as vice-chair of the DARPA ISAT (Information Science and Technology) Study Group.

Bliss is the recipient of the inaugural MIT Lincoln Laboratory Early Career Technical Achievement award. This recognition is bestowed annually to two recipients under the age of 35. She was selected for her work in parallel computing, computer architectures and graph processing algorithms, and for her exceptional leadership in anomaly detection in graph-based data. She is also the recipient of the R&D100 award for her work on PVTOL: Parallel Vector Tile Optimizing Library.

She received bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Science from Cornell University, and earned her doctorate in Applied Mathematics for the Life and Social Sciences (Complex Adaptive Systems Science) from Arizona State University.