



America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM · AI WORLD SOCIETY · LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026

SPECIAL PROFILE

Herbert Lin

Architect of Cyber Policy for the National Security Era

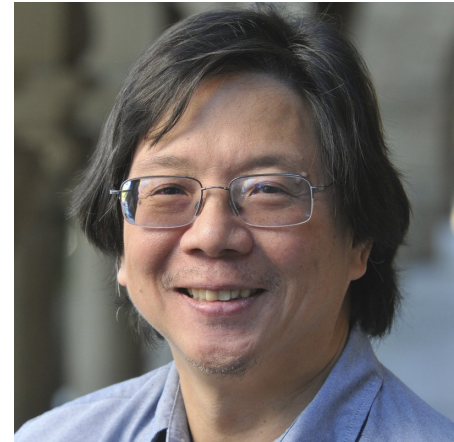
Research Fellow and Senior Research Scholar, Stanford University

Director, Stanford Emerging Technology Review

Chief Scientist Emeritus, Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, National Academies

Member, President's Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity · 2016

Honored as one of the America 250 · AI Pioneers



I From the Halls of Congress to the National Academies

A LIFETIME IN PUBLIC SERVICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Herbert Lin is among the most consequential American thinkers on the policy dimensions of cyberspace, artificial intelligence, and national security. As Research Fellow and Senior Research Scholar at Stanford University, and Director and Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Emerging Technology Review, he sits at the center of a generation of scholars working to ensure that America's technological capacities remain accountable to its democratic commitments.

Lin received his doctorate in physics from MIT and entered public service as a professional staff member and staff scientist for the U.S. House Armed Services Committee from 1986 to 1990, where his portfolio included defense policy and arms control. From 1990 to 2014, he served as Chief Scientist for the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board at the National Research Council of the National Academies, directing major studies that shaped American public policy on information technology, cybersecurity, and the long-term technical questions facing the federal government.

In 2016, he served on President Obama's Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity, helping to shape the framework of recommendations that has guided federal cybersecurity policy across administrations. From

2016 through 2025, he served on the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the body responsible for the iconic Doomsday Clock.

“We are building, in cyberspace, an environment whose strategic logic we do not yet understand — and whose consequences we will live with for generations.”

II *Cyber, AI, and the Future of Conflict*

BRINGING RIGOR TO THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Lin’s research interests range across the full breadth of policy challenges raised by emerging technology in the national-security domain. He has written extensively on **the role of offensive operations in cyberspace as instruments of national policy** — a field in which he is among the most cited and consulted American voices. His more recent work addresses the integration of **artificial intelligence into warfare and the command-and-control of nuclear weapons**, and the security dimensions of information warfare and influence operations on democratic societies.

As Director of the Stanford Emerging Technology Review, Lin oversees an annual report on ten frontier technologies — from AI and biotechnology to robotics, semiconductors, and space — that has become a major reference for American policymakers, journalists, and the public seeking to understand the technological landscape of the coming decades. His own chapter on the cross-cutting themes of emerging technology has helped establish a framework for thinking about technology policy that does not depend on the technical particulars of any single field.

Lin’s scholarship spans cybersecurity, arms control, cognitive science, and science education — a breadth that reflects an enduring conviction that the most important questions of national security are not technical questions alone, but questions about the institutions and judgment of a democratic society.

“Technology does not decide how it will be used. People do. The hardest work of national security is to keep that fact at the center of every decision.”

III *America at 250: AI Pioneers*

RECOGNIZING A FOUNDATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE AI AGE

At the **America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference** at Loeb House, Harvard University, on **May 1, 2026**, **Governor Michael Dukakis and Nguyen Anh Tuan** honor Herbert Lin as one of the **America 250 · AI Pioneers** — the fifty leaders whose work is shaping America in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

The Conference’s recognition honors a career devoted to the careful, scholarly, and patriotic service of American national security at the frontier of technology. From the U.S. House Armed Services Committee to the National Academies, from President Obama’s cybersecurity commission to the Stanford Emerging Technology Review, Lin’s work has shaped how generations of American policymakers, scholars, and citizens understand the technological forces that will define the country’s next quarter-millennium.

“A democracy that does not understand its technologies cannot govern them. The work of policy is the work of understanding.”



From the floor of the House Armed Services Committee to the boards of the National Academies, from the offensive operations of cyberspace to the integration of AI into nuclear command-and-control, Herbert Lin has spent four decades bringing scholarly rigor to the most consequential questions of American national security in the age of advanced technology. America at 250 honors that lifetime of public service.

CONCLUSION

*From the staff of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee to the leadership of the Stanford Emerging Technology Review, from the National Academies to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, **Herbert Lin** has brought scholarly rigor to the most difficult questions of national security in the AI Age — work that will guide the policy framework of the coming decades, and remind us that a democracy that does not understand its technologies cannot govern them.*



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