

Sam Weiss Evans, D.Phil.

Expert in Experimental Governance of Emerging Science and Technology

Washington, DC | sam@evansresearch.org | Version: Fall 2026

Professional Summary

Policy advisor and Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholar with over 15 years of experience at the intersection of research, innovation, and security. Proven leadership in biosecurity governance, dual-use research policy, and responsible innovation. Extensive academic and advisory roles across top institutions including Harvard, UC Berkeley, Cambridge, and the US National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology. Inactive **TS/SCI clearances**.

Most Recent Roles

Senior Advisor, Federation of American Scientists

(2026-present)

Building the biotechnology governance reform agenda for FAS.

Senior Policy Advisor, US National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

(2023–2025)

Established and led the team on biosecurity, biosafety, norms, standards, ethics and responsible innovation. Developed and achieved bipartisan, consent from 11 Commissioners on recommendations for a consolidated biosecurity, biosafety, and responsible innovation body within the government, as well as the establishment of systems for engaging with the ethics of biotechnology within the Department of Defense and Congress. Drafted legislation and engaged directly with Congressional offices.

Council Member, Engineering Biology Research Consortium (2021–Present)

Advise this international public/private partnership on strategies that improve and advance policies on security and responsible innovation.

Select Academic Positions

- **Harvard University** (2019-2023): Senior Research Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, with cross-appointments at the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the Data Science Initiative
Managed \$2mil Trust in Science Project; taught undergraduate/graduate courses; reformed SEAS undergraduate curriculum to attend to the social aspects of engineering; helped run the STS Program.
- **MIT** (2014-Present): Research Associate, Program on Emerging Technology
- **University of Cambridge** (2018-2019): CRASSH Fellow, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk

- **Tufts University** (2017-2019): Assistant Research Professor, STS Program
- **UC Berkeley** (2011-2014): Associate Director for Research, Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society (CSTMS)
Helped build and launch CSTMS including acquiring ~\$1mil in funding, launching PhD/undergraduate minors and seminar series.

Education

D.Phil. in Management, Oxford University (2009)

Thesis topic: Modification of international dual-use export control lists

M.Sc. in Management Research, Oxford University (2004)

Thesis topic: World Trade Organization risk management in agricultural biotechnologies

B.A. in Physics and Philosophy, St. Olaf College (2002)

Thesis topic: Analysis of the qualifications necessary for a President's Science Advisor

Select Leadership & Advisory Roles

- Junior Council, Science and Democracy Network (2015-2023)
- Advisor, Bio Policy & Leadership Initiative, Stanford University (2020–2023)
- Legal, Ethical, Environmental, and Responsible Development Advisory Group, DARPA Safe Genes Program (2018–2022)
- Co-Chair, Human Practices, iGEM Competition (2015–2020)

Select Publications

Author/co-author of over 30 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and policy reports on biosecurity, gene drives, dual-use research, and governance. Select publications:

Evans, Sam Weiss. 2026. "**Transforming American Biosecurity.**" Federation of American Scientists. <https://fas.org/publication/transforming-american-biosecurity/>

Evans, Sam Weiss. 2022. "**When All Research Is Dual Use.**" *Issues in Science and Technology* 38 (3): 84–87.

Evans, Sam Weiss, Jacob Beal, Kavita Berger, et al. 2020. "**Embrace Experimentation in Biosecurity Governance.**" *Science* 368 (6487): 138–40. DOI:10.1126/science.aba2932.

Evans, Sam Weiss, Matthias Leese, and Dagmar Rychnovská. 2020. "**Science, Technology, Security: Towards Critical Collaboration.**" *Social Studies of Science* 51 (2): 189–213. DOI:10.1177/0306312720953515.

Evans, Sam Weiss, and Megan J. Palmer. 2018. "**Anomaly Handling and the Politics of Gene Drives.**" *Journal of Responsible Innovation* 5 (sup 1): 223–42. DOI:10.1080/23299460.2017.1407911.