



Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference Young Professionals Track

April 23, 2025

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1779 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036*

Agenda

8:00 AM Registration and social breakfast

Proud to partner with

- Gin & Atomics
- Project on Nuclear Issues
- ReThink Media
- Westinghouse
- Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation

**Additional panelists will be confirmed shortly.*

**All sessions will be in Pritzker unless otherwise stated.*

8:00 AM Registration and social breakfast

9:00 AM Introduction

- Jayita Sarkar, *British Academy Global Innovation Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*
- Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, *President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

9:15 AM Panel: Careers in Nuclear Policy

Young professionals in the nuclear field face an evolving landscape. On top of the long-standing challenge of navigating the early stages of a career, young professionals also face rapid policy shifts and the many impacts of the rapidly transforming global nuclear order. How might they best navigate these systemic shifts? What skills, techniques, and approaches have established nuclear professionals used to develop expertise and build their profiles? How can young professionals adapt themselves to current circumstances?

Panelists

Wendin Smith, *Associate Administrator and Deputy Under Secretary for Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration*

Renata Hessmann Dalaqua, *Head of the Gender and Disarmament Programme, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research*

Nomsa Ndongwe, *Research Fellow, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies*

Moderator

Lindsay Rand, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation*

10:30 AM Break

10:45 AM Panel: The Three-Body Problem

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, the United States' nuclear posture and strategy have been focused on one adversary: the Soviet Union, and its successor, Russia. Today, however, the rapid growth in China's nuclear arsenal and a deepening partnership between Moscow and Beijing—all occurring against the backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions—have catalyzed a debate about the need for change. What adaptations to the United States's force size, force structure, and targeting policy are currently being discussed? What are the implications of possible changes for deterring adversaries, assuring allies, conflict escalation, arms racing, nonproliferation, and disarmament? Are major changes to the United States' nuclear forces feasible given limitations in its defense industrial base, and what would be the trade-offs to achieving them?

Panelists

Tong Zhao, *Senior Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Heather Williams, *Director, Project on Nuclear Issues and Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies*

Sanne Verschuren, *Assistant Professor of International Security, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies of Boston University*

Moderator

Nicole Grajewski, *Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

12:00 PM Lunch (Root)

12:45 PM Breakout Sessions

- Ukraine Crisis Simulation (Root)

- Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Energy (Shotwell)
- A Return to Nuclear Testing? Reimagining Nuclear Futures (Pritzker South)

Ukraine Crisis Simulation

The Project on Nuclear Issues' "On the Nuclear Brink" escalation management tabletop exercise (TTX) allows players to explore escalation dynamics and deterrence concepts through fictional crises set in real-world geopolitical hot spots. In the latest edition of the TTX, players navigate a fictional crisis set during the war in Ukraine. Participants are tasked with maintaining the cohesion of U.S. alliances and protecting U.S. interests while managing escalation risks. The TTX consists of three turns where players must select responses to Russian activity and global events. The outcome of the crisis varies widely depending on the choices made by the player and ranges from backchannel talks to nuclear weapons use.

Moderator

Niko Adamopoulos, *Associate Director and Associate Fellow, Project on Nuclear Issues, Center for Strategic and International Studies*

Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Energy

After decades of uncertainty, the nuclear industry now stands on the edge of immense opportunities and changes. Renewed political will and new stakeholders are providing tailwinds for a significant expansion of nuclear power. This session will look at new and emerging nuclear reactor technologies and novel deployment models that are challenging the status quo. We will explore what this means for stakeholders and their obligations under global export regimes and verification requirements, and the need for closer industry collaboration with all stakeholders to make the potential a reality.

Moderator

Jo Anna Bredenkamp, *Director of Global Nuclear Safeguards and Strategic Export at Westinghouse Electric Belgium*

A Return to Nuclear Testing? Reimagining Nuclear Futures

As geopolitical tensions rise, renewed nuclear testing threatens decades of progress in arms control. This Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation session explores the historical, scientific, and societal impacts of nuclear tests, focusing on marginalized communities, including Indigenous populations. Panelists will examine intersections of nuclear policy with public health, environmental justice, and global equity, challenging participants to envision pathways prioritizing disarmament, nonproliferation, and equitable security. Through innovative policy solutions and community-driven advocacy, the session reimagines a future of sustainable global peace, avoiding the destructive practices of the past.

Moderator

Nola Haynes, *West Coast Director, Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation*

Panelists

Sara Haghdooosti, *Executive Director, Win Without War*

Mareena Robinson Snowden, *Senior Engineer, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory*

Nancy Okail, *President and CEO, The Center for International Policy*

1:45 PM Break

2:00 PM Workshops

- Safeguard, Verification, and Monitoring Techniques (Pritzker North)
- Building your Expert Profile/Media Training (Root)

Safeguard, Verification, and Monitoring Techniques

In this realistic hands-on exercise, participants will gain an understanding of what International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors do to verify nuclear material in a nuclear fuel cycle facility. These kits were designed to be portable and are used around the world to train nuclear regulators' inspectors. There are two kits. One represents a bulk facility (powder in cans). The second represents a research reactor (pellets in fuel rods). Participants will be divided into teams with specific assignments to complete their IAEA verification mission at each facility. This includes potentially detecting and resolving any discrepancies in their inventories.

Facilitator

Mark Schanfein, *Senior Nonproliferation Advisor, Idaho National Laboratory*

Creating Lasting Impact: Media and Public Communication for Early-Career Nuclear Experts

While the nuclear policy community urgently needs fresh ideas and perspectives, early-career professionals often struggle to establish a public voice in today's fast-moving information landscape. This interactive session will provide attendees with tools to translate academic research into compelling messaging, build relationships with journalists, and position themselves as expert sources. Participants will gain insights into what editors seek in op-ed submissions and leave with the confidence to engage with key media outlets in the nuclear field. Led by communications experts from ReThink Media's Peace and Security Collaborative, this workshop will help participants strengthen their media skills and build a stronger professional profile.

Facilitators

MacKenzie Hamilton, *Program Director, Peace and Security Team, Rethink Media*

Frank Yuwen Chen, *Senior Communications Associate, Peace and Security Team, Rethink Media*

3:15 PM Break

3:45 PM Workshops (continued)

5:00 PM End of Day (Root)

Closing Remarks: Toby Dalton, *Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

5:15 PM Happy Hour (7th Floor Rooftop. Root if raining.)
In collaboration with Gin & Atomics