



## Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference

### Young Professionals Track

April 23, 2025

Proud to partner with:

- Westinghouse
- Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation

*\*Additional panelists will be confirmed shortly.*

*\*All times are indicated in EDT.*

*\*Virtual participants are invited to stay online during breaks to network*

**8:30 AM** Zoom opens

**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** Break

**12:45 PM** Synchronous Breakout Sessions

- Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Energy
- A Return to Nuclear Testing? Reimagining Nuclear Futures

***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

Annaleah Westerhaug, *Development Officer, Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation*

Panelists

Elika Dadsetan-Foley, Executive Director, VISIONS, Inc

Frmr Amb. Bonnie Jenkins, *Shapiro Visiting Professor of International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs*

Lilly Adams, *Outreach Consultant, Union of Concerned Scientists*

Kylie Jones, *Former Junior Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Knight-Hennessy Scholar, Stanford University.*

**1:45 PM**      End of Virtual Day

**3:00 AM**      Asynchronous Breakout Session

- U.S. Extended Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific
  - o =7:00 am GMT (next day)
  - o =12:30 pm in New Delhi (next day)
  - o =3:00 pm in Beijing (next day)
  - o =4:00 pm in Seoul and Tokyo (next day)
  - o =5:00 pm in Canberra (next day)

- o =7:00 pm in Wellington (next day)

### ***U.S. Extended Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific***

The credibility of U.S. extended deterrence has long been questioned, but skepticism has surged with Donald Trump's return to the White House. This concern is particularly acute in the Indo-Pacific, where North Korea's advancing missile and nuclear capabilities, along with China's rapid nuclear expansion, pose growing threats. This session will examine the key challenges confronting U.S. extended deterrence in the region, including alliance cohesion, the shifting nuclear posture of regional adversaries, and the role of both conventional and nuclear forces in maintaining credible deterrence. It will also explore how allies such as South Korea, Japan, and Australia may reconsider their own nuclear options amid increasing uncertainty over Washington's security commitments.

#### Moderator

Lami Kim, *Professor, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies*