

Nuclear Studies Research Initiative 2017

Friday, September 15th

Session One: Merriment, Imbibe-ment, and Presentation/Discussion of the Memos

Moderated by Francis J. Gavin

Saturday, September 16th

Session Two - 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

“The Current State of Academic Knowledge on Nuclear Politics, Policy, and Statecraft”

Moderated by Julia McDonald and Vipin Narang

What is the current state of academic knowledge on nuclear politics, policy, and statecraft? What issues are settled? What are contentious/unsettled? What are the nature of the disputes and disagreements? Are there issues/concepts/theories that we believed were settled, but which need to be rethought/reconsidered?

Session Three - 11:00-12:45 a.m.

“Rethinking Deterrence and the Nuclear Revolution”

Moderated by Janne Nolan and Joshua Rovner

In the years following the United States atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, American scholars and strategists constructed an impressive intellectual architecture to help understand how nuclear weapons shape state decisions and the international system. The debates and concepts laid out by early thinkers (Brodie, Schelling, Wohlstetter) and expanded upon by later generations (Jervis, Waltz, Sagan, Glaser) remain, to a large degree, provide both a conventional wisdom and conceptual organization we still (largely) use today. How well has this intellectual legacy stood up? What concepts and arguments should be revisited, refined, or even replaced?

Session Four - 2:00-3:45 p.m.

“International Perspectives”

Moderated by Malfrid Braut-Hegghammer and Ori Rabinowitz

NSRI Global Workshop Agenda

Nuclear studies, it has been suggested, is plagued by a U.S. centric bias. As recent international discussions of arms control, the ban, and the humanitarian consequences movement reveals, the United States and global policy and opinion are often at odds. How important is this disconnect, and what can be done to correct it? How can we generate a more global lens for nuclear studies?

Informal, Inebriated Conversation: Dinner

Moderated by Austin Long and Mira Rapp-Hooper

What are the insights from the day's discussion? What are the big questions that still need to be explored?

Sunday, September 17th

Session Five: 9:00-10:45 a.m.

“Bridging the Policy-University Gap”

Chaired by Colin Kahl and Erin Simpson

Perhaps the most important gap is between scholars of nuclear issues and policymakers. What are the primary issues that each community has, and what are the different approaches to getting answers? Do they understand nuclear issues differently, and if so, how and why? Is the gap on nuclear issues bigger than on other issues? How can this gap be closed?