

UK PONI

UK Project on Nuclear Issues

Call for Presentations: The UK PONI 2019 Annual Conference

13th June 2019

Royal United Services Institute
Whitehall, London

The UK PONI Annual Conference has established itself as the premier UK forum for developing new nuclear expertise from academia, industry, government, and the military. By bringing together emerging and established experts from across the nuclear field, this conference series promotes an informed and diverse dialogue on the most pertinent nuclear issues of the day.

We are now accepting proposals from UK PONI members for presentations at the 2019 Annual Conference, which will take place on 13 June at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London. The event will consist of panel presentations, keynote speeches, breakout sessions, and an evening dinner reception. This conference will focus on, but will not be limited to, the topics listed in the research agenda overleaf. For information and presentations from the 2018 Annual Conference please click [here](#).

UK PONI encourages presentation proposals from graduate students, emerging technical specialists, and early career professionals, including those with military experience. Selected presenters will have the opportunity to: work with members of the UK PONI team to refine their ideas and research; present their work to a broad audience of nuclear experts; publish a short paper; and have the chance to present at US Strategic Command at Omaha as part of the US PONI Conference Series.

UK PONI is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive community of nuclear scholars and professionals. We welcome presentation proposals from all interested parties, regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion/beliefs or sexual orientation.

Presentation proposals should be no longer than 300 words and should include the following:

1. Your name, organisation/university affiliation, and position
2. The notional title of your presentation
3. A summary of your presentation, which should include an indication of how it links to one or more of the themes identified below

Please send presentation proposals to ukponi@rusi.org by Sunday, 31 March. Please include 'Annual Conference Proposal' as the email subject. Please note the UK PONI Annual Conference is open to registered UK PONI members only. To register for UK PONI free of charge, please visit the UK PONI website, located at www.rusi.org/ukponi.

Research Topics for the UK PONI 2019 Annual Conference

The following topics are meant to outline, in broad terms, the issues which the UK PONI 2019 Annual Conference hopes to cover. The list is not exhaustive, and all presentation proposals will be considered insofar as they relate to the below. We encourage proposals that address these topics from diverse points of view, including both technical and policy perspectives.

Arms control and Deterrence

Recent challenges have prompted new interest in the future of arms control and deterrence. From the demise of the INF Treaty, to threats and opportunities posed by advanced technologies, to questions surrounding extended deterrence and assurance, these challenges could fundamentally alter arms control and deterrence strategies in the 21st century. How might advanced technologies threaten strategic stability by undermining traditional command and control structures, or be leveraged to support new ideas of co-operative security? What does US and Russian withdrawal from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty tell us about the future of New START and deterrence in the Euro-Atlantic region? And how can bilateral models of arms control and deterrence be effectively applied to a multipolar world? UK PONI welcomes presentations that consider these questions and more.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

The non-proliferation regime is at a crossroads. A slowdown – perhaps even the beginnings of a reversal – in nuclear disarmament, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and stalled progress on the creation of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East are just some issues that will make consensus at the 2020 NPT Review Conference hard to achieve. UK PONI welcomes presentations that explore the benefits and drawbacks of current non-proliferation and disarmament approaches, technical or political developments that will need to be addressed for future progress, or new ideas for initiatives that could be employed to strengthen non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

UK Nuclear Enterprise

Throughout its nuclear history, the UK has developed an extensive civil and military nuclear industry. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the UK's policy of Continuous at Sea Deterrence. The UK will soon make a decision on a new nuclear warhead and must also consider the future of civil nuclear new builds in light of recent challenges to that programme. UK PONI welcomes proposals that consider the past, present and future of the UK nuclear enterprise. Proposals could, for example, address key lessons learnt from past decisions, argue a position on a critical upcoming decision, suggest new pathways for the UK nuclear sector, or discuss the role of the military in the UK nuclear enterprise.

Regional Nuclear Issues

Regional nuclear issues continue to top international agendas. Persistent concerns about Russia's nuclear doctrine and modernization, North Korea's continued progress on its nuclear and missile programmes, and ongoing uncertainty about the longer-term future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action have all grabbed headlines in the past year. Meanwhile, nuclear programmes elsewhere get less attention but may provoke similar or greater concern: the growth of nuclear arsenals and expanded concepts of use in South Asia, for example, is another significant risk area. UK PONI welcomes proposals that consider these regional issues, the challenges they present, and options for a way forward.