UK Project on Nuclear Issues 2020 Annual Conference

Tuesday 9 June 2020: Emerging Technology and Nuclear Proliferation

1300 – 1315 Introduction and Welcome – Tom Plant, UK PONI Director

1315 – 1400 Panel One: AI Cyber and Space

Chair: Alexandra Stickings, Research Fellow Space Policy and Security, RUSI
Speakers:
Jonathan Roberts, Graduate Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin
Human vs. Machine: The role of AI in Nuclear Weapons Systems
Charlotte Levy, Graduate Safety Engineer, Babcock
The Global AI Race and Strategic Balance: Which Race Are We Running
Marina Favaro, Policy Analyst, BASIC
Cyber- and space-based capabilities and their impact on strategic stability
Jaewoo Shin, Analyst, Open Nuclear Network One Earth Future
Implications of Real-Time Open Source Intelligence for Crisis Dynamics

1400 – 1410 Break

1410 – 1510 Panel One: Q&A

1510 – 1540 Break

1540 - 1700 Panel Two: Hypersonics and technological threats to deterrence

Chair: TBC
Speakers:
Alice Spilman, Researcher at BASIC and PhD Candidate at the University of Birmingham
The Erosion of Traditional Nuclear Deterrence: How technological advancements threaten the managed system of deterrence
Julia Balm, MA Candidate King’s College London,
Russian Hypersonic Boost Glide Vehicles: 'Boosting' Putin's National Security Strategy
Aaron Kennedy, Graduate Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin
Hypersonic Missile Defence: Stopping the Unstoppable

1700 – 1800 Keynote speech and Q&A
Speaker TBC

Wednesday 10 June 2020: Challenges and solutions for sustaining nuclear expertise in the next generation

1300 – 1445 Panel three: Challenges and solutions for sustaining nuclear expertise in the next generation

Chair: Cristina Varriale, Research Fellow, RUSI
Speakers:
Geoffrey Chapman, PhD Candidate Centre for Science and Security Studies, King’s College London
Back to the Future: Past lessons on sustaining skills
Lorne Dryer, final year A-level student and incoming Politics and International Relations undergraduate

Setting the perception, how do policy and media affect the UK nuclear skills pipeline?
Emily Enright, MA Candidate in International Conflict Studies at King’s College London

Addressing the ‘leaky pipeline’: taking the temperature of the UK’s early-career nuclear policy cohort
Matt Korda, Research Associate, Federation of American Scientists

How do we get young people to care about nukes?

1445 – 1545
Break

1545 – 1700
Panel 4: UK PONI alumni panel: making your way in the nuclear field
Chair: TBC
Speakers: TBC

1700 - 1800
Keynote speech and Q&A
Speaker: TBC

Thursday 11 June 2020: UK nuclear weapons and Euro-Atlantic Security

1300 – 1445
Panel 5: Nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and UK national strategy
Chair: TBC
Speakers: Artúr Hoñich, Dual MA Candidate at Sciences Po Paris and King’s College London
Deployment of the W76-2: Strengthening Deterrence or Lowering the Threshold?
Ramesh Balakrishnan, MA Candidate, Carleton University, Ottawa
Euro-Atlantic Security and the UK’s Nuclear Strategy in 2040: the Case for a Robust UK Missile Defence System
Lyndon Burford, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Centre for Science and Security Studies, King’s College London
Nuclear deterrence - the ghost pillar of the NPT
Thomas P. Davis, Director at Davis & Musgrove Ltd and PhD Researcher at the University of Oxford
Playing the ‘China card’: national security implications of the UK Hualong One nuclear power station

1445 – 1515
Break

1515 – 1715
Interactive activity (further details TBC)

1715 – 1730
Break

1730 – 1740
Observations on proceedings, Tom Plant, UK PONI Director

1740 - 1830
Closing keynote speech and Q&A