



Public Policy and Nuclear Threats Boot Camp

University of California

Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

JULY 5 – 15, 2026



PARTICIPANTS



Aya Al-Najjar

[Middlebury Institute of International Studies](#)

Aya Al-Najjar is a graduate student at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, specializing in nuclear nonproliferation and energy policy. Aya's research examines international safeguards, nuclear security, and the governance of civilian nuclear energy programs. Aya is interested in the intersection of technical and policy approaches to nonproliferation and aspires to support U.S. and international efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear security and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.



Sophia Anastazievsky

[Harvard University](#)

Sophia Anastazievsky is a PhD student in the Government Department at Harvard University, specializing in political theory with a substantive interest in international relations. Her current research sits at the intersection of political theory, international law, and security studies. Her work on proportionality and nuclear coercion has appeared in *Ethics & International Affairs*. Previously, she worked as a research assistant to Pablo de Greiff of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. She holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Chicago and an MA in Bioethics from New York University.



Scott Barcus

[Los Alamos National Laboratory](#)

Scott Barcus is a nuclear physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory specializing in nuclear national security, with expertise in space-based nuclear detonation detection, space protection, and emerging threats. His technical work directly informs policy makers and government agencies in understanding, navigating, and addressing the rapidly evolving nuclear threat landscape.



Arthur Bishop

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Senior communications executive with 15+ years of leadership experience across national security, higher education, government regulation, and nonprofit sectors. Trusted advisor to senior leadership within an 18,000-person national security enterprise, directing executive messaging, internal engagement, and strategic communications initiatives. Recognized for aligning complex technical organizations around mission priorities, strengthening stakeholder trust, and leading high-performing communications teams.



Jacob (Jack) Bradley

RAND Graduate School of Public Policy

Jacob “Jack” Bradley is a national security policy professional specializing in defense strategy, military history, and geopolitical risk analysis. He holds a Master’s in National Security Policy from the RAND School of Public Policy, where his research focused on naval supply chains and policy, as well as nuclear policymaking. Jack is especially interested in providing policymakers with historical context to inform decision-making. He has a BA in history with minors in international relations and data science. His previous experience includes serving as a Research Assistant for the U.S. Department of State’s Office of the Historian and conducting foreign policy research for the Brookings Institution. As a former Hertog Foundation Security Studies Fellow and a Humanity in Action Berlin Fellow, Jack has demonstrated a deep commitment to maintaining the rules-based international order and understanding complex security challenges, including nuclear arms control, military strategy, and U.S. foreign policy. Jack’s advocacy extends beyond national security to actively promoting high-quality, rigorous education and internship opportunities for disabled students regardless of their disability.



Sena Dalak MacDonald

Georgia Institute of Technology

Sena is a Ph.D. student and Graduate Research Assistant at Georgia Institute of Technology, affiliated with SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Her research develops multiphysics thermal models to investigate material damage and burnthrough phenomena under high-intensity Free Electron Laser exposure, supporting LCLS operations through advanced simulation and beam-interaction analysis. In parallel, she is pursuing a graduate certificate in Emerging Technologies and Proliferation through the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, combining technical research with policy and security perspectives on advanced technologies. Prior to starting her Ph.D., she worked as a Nuclear Regulatory Assistant Specialist in the Department of Security and Safeguards at the Turkish Nuclear Regulatory Authority. She holds an M.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering with Nuclear Nonproliferation Specialization from Texas A&M University.



Nicole DiBlasi

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dr. Nicole DiBlasi (Nikki; she/her) is a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory with over 12 years of experience in plutonium chemistry and nuclear forensics. Her key focus areas include actinide analytical chemistry and pre-detonation nuclear forensics. Her work integrates expertise in radiometric measurement methods, actinide separations, analytical chemistry, and aqueous f-element chemistry to characterize materials for potential forensic signatures. Dr. DiBlasi currently serves as the LANL Site Technical Analysis Manager and plutonium technical lead for the NA-83 Office of Nuclear Forensics Material Analysis Program (MAP) and is a subject matter expert in HPGe gamma spectrometry and other radiochemistry analytical methods for several actinide analytical chemistry customers, including stockpile stewardship, nonproliferation, plutonium modernization, and pre-detonation nuclear forensics.



Lilly Doninger

Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Lilly Doninger is a research assistant at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. She focuses on Russian military strategy and force structure, working specifically with CSBA's Strategic Choices Tool (SCT). Apart from her work on the SCT, Lilly also focuses on wargaming and simulation, military innovation, and operations research. Prior to joining CSBA, Ms. Doninger was a summer fellow in the Functional Plans Directorate (J57) of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, where she supported Defense Support of Civil Authorities, Pandemic Response, Foreign Humanitarian Assistance, and Homeland Defense planning, and she served as a research assistant for William & Mary's Security and Foreign Policy Initiative focusing on Indo-Pacific joint military exercises. Ms. Doninger has a B.A. in International Relations from the College of William & Mary and an M.A. in Strategy, Cybersecurity, and Intelligence from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



Jackson du Pont

King's College London

Jackson du Pont is a current MA candidate in the War Studies program at King's College London. He was previously a Research Fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, where he specialized in US nuclear weapons policy, US-China strategic relations, and biosecurity issues. His work and studies prioritize multi- and bilateral solutions to intractable weapons of mass destruction challenges. He was a 2024 Ploughshares Nuclear Futures Fellow and a 2022 John Kerry Fellow. He has a B.A. in Global Affairs from Yale College.



Geoffrey Fairchild

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dr. Geoffrey Fairchild serves as Deputy Director of the National Security AI Office (NSAIO) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); he supports the strategic growth of LANL's AI priorities, including the Genesis Mission, internal and external investments, and public/private partnerships. He joined LANL in 2012 as a Graduate Research Assistant and has been staff since 2015. His research focus

has been on using AI/ML/data science techniques to solve real-world activity-based intelligence problems for applications like disease modeling, information dynamics modeling, and patterns-of-life analysis and anomaly detection for the U.S. Intelligence Community, Department of Defense, and Department of Energy. From 2020-2024, he served on a small team of rotating LANL staff members that provided scientific advising to the U.S. Strategic Command War Plan Evaluation Division (J59). He holds dual B.S. degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin and holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Iowa.



Kris Fronzak

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Kris Fronzak has spent the last 10 years helping leaders at Los Alamos National Lab communicate clearly and with personality about everything from HR issues to complex national security topics. She also manages Los Alamos's team of science writers, helping them navigate bureaucracy and shape stories that resonate. A former journalist, travel writer, and medical writer, Kris spends her spare time reading and backpacking around New Mexico.



Jill Gibson

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Jill Gibson is a communications specialist in the Weapons Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory. For the past four years she has served as a writer for the lab's National Security Science magazine an external publication providing in-depth coverage of the Laboratory's mission-critical work, with a focus on science-based stockpile modernization and the Los Alamos-designed and -maintained weapons systems that compose the United States' nuclear deterrent. Prior to joining Los Alamos, she worked as a communications and journalism professor and department chair and as a news reporter and anchor. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's from Northwestern.



Taylor Ginieczki

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Taylor Sarah Ginieczki is a PhD candidate in the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her in-progress dissertation develops a dual-level theory of US nuclear strategy. Drawing on archival research and case-study analysis, she theorizes that domestic Hawk-Dove coalitions and geopolitical threats interact to shape nuclear strategic variation over time. More broadly, her research interests centre on grand strategy, threat perception, realist IR theory, and social science research design. She holds an MSc in International Politics (Distinction) from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, and an Honours BA in Political Science and Global Studies (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Oregon, USA. Her professional experience encompasses academic teaching, consulting, publishing, and research.



Julian Gluck

Air Force Institute of Technology

Originally from LaGrange, Georgia, Major Julian Gluck is a U.S. Air Force Reserve officer assigned to the Defense Innovation Unit and a part-time graduate student in the Nuclear Weapons Effects, Policy, and Proliferation program in the Department of Engineering Physics at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy (B.S. Political Science), earned his wings from Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. Julian is also an alumnus of Air Command & Staff College and the Program for Emerging Leaders at National Defense University's Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction. As a B-52 pilot, Julian flew combat missions against ISIS and the Taliban and served in the liberation of Mosul and Raqqa. For “exemplary military service beyond the call of duty,” he was honored as the 2018 *Air Force Times* Airman of the Year. Julian received the 2019 Secretary of the Air Force Leadership Award, was named to the 2020 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list for Law and Policy in North America, and was selected as one of Junior Chamber International USA’s 2023 Ten Outstanding Young Americans. In his civilian life, Julian advises deep technology startups and volunteers on the boards of national and local non-profits. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Emily Johnson

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Emily Johnson is a scientist with the X-Theoretical Design Nuclear Treat Assessment group at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). She has been working at LANL since 2019, when she took her first internship as a Undergraduate student. She graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) in 2020 with her BS in Chemical Engineering and in 2024 with her PhD in Explosives Engineering.



Hanwen Kang

Georgia Institute of Technology

Hanwen Kang is a public policy scholar studying nuclear energy governance. Trained in public policy, energy economics, and economics, his research focuses on the institutional and policy factors shaping civilian nuclear energy expansion, including reactor development, SMR deployment, and nonproliferation frameworks.



John (Jack) LeFavour

Department of Energy

Jack LeFavour has extensive experience in a variety of areas, ranging from international conference planning, congressional affairs, defense budget strategic planning, and nuclear nonproliferation. Jack currently serves as an executive officer with DOE/NNSA in the Office of Material Management and Minimization (M3). In this role, he directly supports M3 senior leadership in administrative duties and strategic planning. From August-September 2025, Jack served at the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna (UNVIE) as a detailee from DOE/NNSA supporting the planning and execution of the 69th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. In this role, he managed traveling delegation logistics and facilitated the Energy Secretary's attendance. Prior to this role, Jack served as an NNSA Graduate Fellow in the M3 Front Office where he managed the compilation, editing, tracking, and organizing of requests from DOE/NNSA senior leadership. Prior to coming to DOE/NNSA, Jack

served as a program management intern at the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany from May-August 2023. Jack also served as a congressional intern in both Washington, D.C. and district offices in Texas and Florida for three members of Congress. Jack holds a Master of Public Administration from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Baylor University.



Grace Long

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Grace Long is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the Safeguards Science and Technology Group. Her work primarily focuses on the development and deployment of neutron measurement systems for nuclear material accountancy of used fuel elements. Dr. Long completed her Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University as a Nuclear Nonproliferation International Safeguards fellow in May 2026.



Karina Martirosova

Michigan State University

Karina is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. with Dr. Jaideep Singh at The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University working on developing a single atom microscope to study low-yield nuclear reactions. After finishing her dissertation, she hopes to move into the nuclear policy field and utilize her technical knowledge for policy research.



Chris Murphy

University of Cincinnati

Chris Murphy is a PhD student at the University of Cincinnati in the School of Public and International Affairs. He primarily focuses on security studies and specifically on nuclear deterrence strategy and nonproliferation. His past research has studied how states form their deterrence strategies under the constraints of empirical uncertainty, has evaluated the effect of non-proliferation norms on supplier nations and changes in the Chinese nuclear arsenal. Prior to Cincinnati,

Chris earned an MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago and a BA in History and Political Science from Grinnell College.



Phillip Olivarez

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Since 2023, Phillip has been a Requirements Engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), where he has been supporting the development and management of complex system and subsystem requirements. His work focuses on translating stakeholder needs into clear, actionable requirements and ensuring they are effectively implemented throughout the project lifecycle. Phillip holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Engineering in Nuclear Engineering, which provide a strong technical foundation for his role. Prior to working at LANL, he was a system design engineer contributing to the development and deployment of Small modular reactors for Holtec International.



Lila Pacheco

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Lila Pacheco is the Project Manager for the Center for National Security and International Studies (CNSIS) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). With more than 20 years of experience across LANL's business, security, and weapons divisions, she has led initiatives in risk management, readiness, and operational excellence. Lila holds dual master's degrees in public administration and non-profit government and in leadership from Adams State University, and maintains certifications in project management and nuclear security fundamentals. Over her 20-year career, she has built a deep understanding of business operations and specializes in managing complex programs that bridge mission, security and operations.



Chris Pagenkopf

Stanford University & US Navy

Lieutenant Commander Chris Pagenkopf is an F-35C pilot and TOPGUN graduate with multiple deployments to the Indo-Pacific and Mediterranean. He is currently assigned to Stanford University where he is enrolled in the Master's in International Policy program.



Ethan Romero-Severson

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Ethan Romero-Severson is a staff scientist in the theoretical biology and biophysics group interested in the parallels between strategic nuclear deterrence and biodeterrence.



Marc Salinas

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Marc Salinas a postdoctoral researcher in design physics at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory seeking to learn more about the policy side of nuclear deterrence and non-proliferation. He has a strong background in nuclear theory, nuclear astrophysics, and statistical modeling. On his spare time, Marc enjoys going to the gym, playing sports, and trying new food.



Samara Shaz

University of Chicago

Samara Shaz has centered her career on understanding nuclear weapons politics, specifically the variance in rhetorical strategies in American nuclear weapons critiques. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations at the University of Chicago. Before coming to Chicago, she assisted on the Nuclear Security portfolio at the Carnegie Corporation of New York. In that role, she

helped manage a \$9 million portfolio dedicated to minimizing nuclear threats. Shaz also did research at MIT's Security Studies Program, analyzing the salience of nuclear weapons in American politics. She earned her BA in Political Science with a minor in Chemistry from Wellesley College, graduating cum laude. As an undergraduate, she conducted research at the Union of Concerned Scientists on the demographic effects on nuclear policy preferences. Her senior honors thesis examined international regimes, contrasting the normative frameworks used by different nuclear weapons treaties.



Thomas Stanton

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Thomas Stanton is a Research and Development engineer in the Production Analysis and Transformation group. Thomas specializes in production modeling, policy, and decision support, with a specific emphasis on optimizing both nuclear and non-nuclear component production. Thomas has an M.S. in Finance from the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management and a B.S. in Financial Engineering from Montana State University.



Kim Alexa Steffens

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

Kim Alexa Steffens is a joint PhD candidate at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the University of Vienna, where she conducts interdisciplinary research on how EU actorness has changed in weapons of mass destruction negotiations amid growing geopolitical contestation. Her work draws on EU law, international relations, and security to analyze the EU's role in shaping such efforts. Previously, she worked in law firms in the US and the UK, focusing on dispute resolution, including representing veterans in a nuclear testing case. She holds a law degree in English law and three master's degrees in international law, international security, and human rights.



Sebastian Szustkowski

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Sebastian Szustkowski is a staff scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), where he serves as a subject matter expert for the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility (DARHT). His work focuses on tuning, modeling, and optimizing the Axis-II accelerator to enable expanded capabilities and executing experimental campaigns in support of the Stockpile Stewardship Program. Sebastian earned his Ph.D. in physics from Northern Illinois University in 2020 and joined LANL in January 2021.



Pierce Thompson

University of California, Berkeley

Pierce Thompson is a Nuclear Engineering PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley. He is focused on inorganic scintillator characterization and fast neutron spectrometer design for emergency response and nonproliferation support



Carolyn Kate Whipple

Colorado School of Mines

Kate Whipple is a graduate student in Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. Her academic interests focus on nuclear energy systems, reactor operations, and the role of public policy in shaping nuclear energy deployment and safety. She is currently completing her second internship with Framatome in the Outage Services group, where she works hands-on with nuclear reactor outages, supporting maintenance, inspections, and operational activities at commercial nuclear power plants. This experience has provided her with practical insight into reactor systems and the challenges of maintaining the existing nuclear fleet. Outside of school and work, Kate is a private pilot with an instrument rating and has a strong interest in aviation and flight systems. She is also a varsity softball player at her university, where she values teamwork, discipline, and grit.



Kobe Young

The George Washington University

Kobe Young is a Master of Arts candidate in International Affairs at The George Washington University's Elliott School, concentrating in International Security with a focus on nuclear policy and nonproliferation. His research interests include extended deterrence, nuclear signaling, and the intersection of emerging technologies and strategic stability. Kobe has served as a Project Intern with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Project on Nuclear Issues, where his work examines proliferation risks associated with advanced uranium enrichment technologies. He has also served as a Graduate Fellow at the American Academy of Diplomacy, communications and programming relating to U.S. diplomacy. Kobe previously graduated from Texas Tech University where he earned three bachelor's degrees in Political Science, Honors Sciences & the Humanities, and General Studies.



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