

Second Atomic Youth? Middle Powers, Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and the Waning of the Liberal World Order

Conveyors:

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The aim of the workshop is to create a space for discussion and dialogue about the possible proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially among middle powers, in the context of the waning of liberal world order. With the presidency of Donald Trump and change in the US foreign policy from liberal internationalism to transactional geopolitical pragmatism, the stabilizing role of the USA in the international system is put under a growing question mark. With the rise of China as a new hegemonic power on the world stage, a lot of old concerns rise again. The great power competition in the field of security and economics, the viability of deterrence, spheres of influence or generally power politics as a way of understanding world affairs is once again on the table. The old “problems” resurfacing did not make obsolete the vicious global problems that captivated the imagination of scholars and general public alike, such as anthropogenic changes to the natural environment, the issues of global justice and dignity of peoples and races, the discrepancies of the worldwide wealth distribution. The proliferation of nuclear weapons may seem like one of the “old”, Cold War problems, yet the current turbulent stage of transition of international system requires us to put it under consideration once more – though in a new, contemporary context.

We wish our workshop to be a venue where diverse scholarship on nuclear proliferation could meet and debate. We welcome both established and emerging scholars as the vastness of the research problem calls for plurality of approaches. We believe that the presence of researchers from various traditions, both positivist and critical, Western and Global, can make an epistemic difference. We sincerely invite the participants from diverse backgrounds – the more diverse the approaches, the better the discussion. We plan to publish an edited volume on the basis of the workshop contributions or prepare a special issue in the open access peer reviewed journal.

We encourage submissions that engage with one or more of the following questions/themes:

1. What is the viability of Non Proliferation Treaty under changing world order?
2. Nuclear Taboo and its place in the social construction of international politics.
3. The non-state actors and nuclear weapons.
4. Strategies of middle powers to acquire nuclear weapons.
5. Nuclear deterrence – doctrines and cases.
6. Middle powers and nuclear hedging – latent capabilities and strategic ambiguity.
7. The geopolitics of emerging and nuclear technologies.
8. The end of extended deterrence? Security dilemmas of U.S. allies in Europe and the Indo-Pacific.
9. Is nuclear brinkmanship a viable tool of statecraft?
10. Is there a place for NATO's Nuclear Sharing in international security architecture?
11. Nuclear weapons as a peak Anthropocene.
12. Will there be a nuclear arms race between USA and China?