

Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) and Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG) sponsored conference - Sept 26, 2019

Speeding towards the Abyss: Contemporary Arms Racing and Global Security

The 'arms race' is a concept associated with the Cold War and assumed to have ended with it. The current international security situation is experiencing a revival of arms racing amongst an expanded grouping of rival states. The breakdown of the strategic relationship between Russia and the US has prompted a resurgence of an arms competition that is affecting all the nuclear weapon powers and which places new stress on the global nuclear restraint regime embodied in the NPT. Technological advances have led to the initiation of arms racing in entirely new domains. The implications of this new round of arms racing for global security merit attention and remedial action.

Venue: University of Ottawa (room 4007, the Social Sciences Building)

Date: One day conference on Thursday, September 26 (9am-5:45pm)

Program

0900-0915: Welcome and introductions (**Rita Abrahamsen, Paul Meyer**)

Nuclear Arms Racing:

0915-10:15: US-Russian Relations and the Threat to Strategic Stability
Moderated by **Rita Abrahamsen**. Speakers: **Ernie Regehr**-The Simons Foundation and **Nancy Teeple**-Royal Military College

10:15-10:30: Refreshment break

10:30-11:30: Nuclear Arms Racing and the NPT: A Middle Power View
Moderated by **M.V. Ramana**. Speakers: **Peggy Mason**-CPG/Rideau Institute and **Marius Grinius**-CGAI

11:30-12:30: South Asia: The Most Dangerous Case?
Moderated by **Farhad Rezaei**. Speakers: **Peter Jones**-UOttawa and
M.V. Ramana-CPG/UBC

12:30-13:15: Luncheon break including:

12:45-13:00: Special presentation “The Collapse of the JCPOA and the
Prospect of a New Arms Race in the Middle East” by **Farhad Rezaei**

Arms Racing in New Domains:

13:15-14:15: Star Wars: Coming to a Space Near You
Moderated by **Cesar Jaramillo**. Speakers: **Paul Meyer**-CPG/Simons
Foundation and **Jessica West**-Project Ploughshares

14:15-15:15: Cyberspace: Sanctuary or a New Domain of War-Fighting?
Moderated by **Peter Jones**. Speakers: **Allison Pytlak**-CPG/WILPF and
Wesley Wark-UOttawa

15:15-15:30: Refreshment break

15:30-16:30: AI & LAWS: Autonomous Arms Racing
Moderated by **Paul Meyer**. Speakers: **Branka Marijan**-Project
Ploughshares and **David Petrusek**-UOttawa

16:30-17:30: Cold War Redux: The Geopolitical Drivers of Arms Racing
and Strategies for Conflict Prevention
Moderated by **Ernie Regehr**. Speakers: **Alexandra Gheciu**-CIPS and
Cesar Jaramillo-CPG/Project Ploughshares

17:30-17:45: Concluding remarks

September 23, 2019