

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

(**Ernie Regehr**-The Simons Foundation; **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 (**Peggy Mason**-CPG/Rideau Institute; **Jill Sinclair**/CIPS)

11:30-12:30: South Asia: the most dangerous case? (**Peter Jones**-UOttawa; **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” (**Farhad Rezaei**)

Arms Racing in New Domains:

13:15-14:15: Star Wars: Coming to a space near you (**Paul Meyer**-CPG/Simons Foundation; **Jessica West**/Project Ploughshares)

14:15-15:15: Cyberspace: Sanctuary or a new domain of war-fighting? (**Allison Pytlak**-CPG/WILPF, **Wesley Wark**-UOttawa)

15:15-15:30: Refreshment break

15:30-16:30: AI & LAWS: Autonomous Arms Racing (**Branka Marijan**-Project Ploughshares; **David Petrusek**-UOttawa)

16:30-17:30: Cold War Redux: the geopolitical drivers of arms racing and strategies for conflict prevention (**Alexandra Gheciu**-CIPS; **Cesar Jaramillo**-CPG/Project Ploughshares)

17:30-17:45: Concluding remarks

September 6, 2019