

Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows Seminar

Fellows - Alphabetically by Institution

Sébastien Philippe, BCSIA



Sébastien Philippe is a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center. His research focuses on developing technologies and policies to support global nuclear non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament efforts. In parallel, he pursues research interests on French nuclear policymaking as a visiting fellow with the Nuclear Knowledge Program at Sciences-Po Paris.

Before his Stanton fellowship, Philippe was a postdoctoral research associate with Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security. He earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University in June 2018 with a dissertation on nuclear warhead verification and was recognized by the University as the 2017–2018 Harold W. Dodds Honorary Fellow for “outstanding performance and professional promise.” From 2011–2012, he worked in the French Ministry of Defense, where he was a nuclear safety and security expert for the strategic submarine forces.

Cameron Tracy, BCSIA



Cameron Tracy is a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow in the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. His research interests include nuclear and chemical weapon stockpile reduction, nuclear waste management, and US-Russian arms control.

Previously, Cameron was a Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University. He received his PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan and earned a BS in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of California, Davis.

Benjamin Zala, BCSIA



Ben Zala is a Stanton Nuclear Security Junior Faculty Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center where he is working on the impact of advanced conventional weapons on nuclear balances. His work focuses on the politics of the great powers, theoretical and historical approaches to understanding global order, and the management of nuclear weapons.

He is currently on leave from the Australian National University where he is a Research Fellow (Assistant Professor) in the Department of International Relations, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs. Ben has previously held positions in the United Kingdom at the University of Leicester, the Oxford Research Group, and Chatham House. His research has appeared in journals such as *The Nonproliferation Review*, *Review of International Studies*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Cooperation & Conflict* and *The Pacific Review*. He earned his PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK and undergraduate degree from La Trobe University, Australia.

Mareena Robinson Snowden, CEIP



Mareena Robinson Snowden is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow with the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Her research focuses on nuclear arms control sufficiency, nonproliferation, and modernization.

Prior to joining Carnegie, Robinson Snowden served as a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Graduate Fellow (NGFP) in the Office of Major Modernization Programs. This office is responsible for the modernization of warhead systems and ensuring access to the strategic materials used in the U.S. stockpile. As an NGFP fellow, Robinson Snowden supported the office programmatically—contributing to the development of strategic documents, developing and presenting briefings to senior NNSA leadership, and serving as technology liaison to the Development Lab at the Y12 National Security Complex.

Robinson Snowden was awarded the NNSA Stockpile Stewardship Graduate Fellowship (SSGF) in 2012, a four-year fellowship that supported her graduate work in the MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Security and Policy. As a SSGF fellow, she conducted research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where she developed computational models to understand radiation interactions generated inside of an open-

source warhead design and conducted experiments to understand the feasibility of detecting these interactions in reality.

Robinson Snowden became the first black woman to earn a PhD in nuclear engineering from MIT in 2017 and holds a BS in physics from Florida A&M University. Her story in STEM has been featured in MARVEL Comics, CNBC, BET and other national television, radio and print media.

Hyun-Binn Cho, CISAC



Hyun-Binn Cho is a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. His research interests are in crisis escalation, coercive diplomacy, and security in the Asia-Pacific, with a focus on China and the Korean peninsula. His book project, which builds on his dissertation, explains and demonstrates the dangers of provocation in interstate crises.

Binn received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 2018. Previously, he was a pre-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at George Washington University, and a visiting doctoral student at the School of International Studies at Peking University. He holds an M.A. in Political Science from Columbia University, an M.A. in International Relations from Seoul National University, and a B.Sc. in Government and Economics from the London School of Economics.

Sidra Hamidi, CISAC



Sidra Hamidi is a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at CISAC. She completed her PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University in 2018. Her research explores the role of identity and discourse in contemporary and historical nuclear politics. Specifically, she studies the distinction between nuclear and non-nuclear states in technical, legal, and normative contexts. She locates the politics of this distinction in the diplomatic practices of Israel, India, and Iran. She completed her MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago. Her commentary has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Duck of Minerva*, and *E-IR*. She is also interested in international relations theory and political science conceptualization and methodology.

Yogesh Joshi, CISAC



Yogesh Joshi is a Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University. His research interests include international history and security with a special focus on nuclear strategy and proliferation in South Asia.

Prior to CISAC, Yogesh Joshi was an Associate Fellow in the Strategic Studies Program at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. He received his PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi specializing in Indian foreign and security policy. His research has appeared or has been accepted for publication in *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Asian Security*, *International History Review*, *International Affairs*, *Survival*, *US Naval War College Review*, *Comparative Strategy*, *Harvard Asia Quarterly*, *India Review* and *Asia Policy*.

Rachel Carr, MIT NSE



Rachel Carr is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Laboratory for Nuclear Security and Policy at MIT. Her background is in experimental particle physics, and her current work is on technical methods for cooperative threat reduction.

Previously, Carr was a Pappalardo Fellow in the MIT Department of Physics and an AIP- ASA Congressional Science Fellow in the U.S. Senate. She received a PhD in Physics from Columbia University in 2015 and a BA in Physics and Philosophy from the University of Virginia in 2009.

David Arceneaux, MIT SSP



David Arceneaux is a pre-doctoral Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Security Studies Program and a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Syracuse University.

Prior to joining MIT, David was a pre-doctoral fellow for the International Politics Scholars Consortium and Network (IPSCON) at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs. David holds an M.A. in political science from Syracuse University and an M.A. in international affairs from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. His research interests include nuclear strategy and operations, with particular attention to operational outcomes such as nuclear command and control systems and nuclear platform diversification.

Se Young Jang, MIT SSP



Se Young Jang is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at MIT's Security Studies Program. Her research focuses on nuclear diplomacy between South Korea (ROK) and the United States in a broader context of both military and civil uses of nuclear technology. She received her PhD in International History from the Graduate Institute Geneva and her BA and MA from Seoul National University. A former ROK diplomat specializing in WMD disarmament and nonproliferation, she also participated in the UN Disarmament Fellowship Program in 2009. Prior to MIT, she was a nonresident scholar at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a predoctoral research fellow and an associate at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, a nonresident James A. Kelly fellow in Korean Studies at the Pacific Forum CSIS, and a visiting scholar at the George Washington University's Institute for Security and Conflict Studies under the Albert Gallatin Fellowship in International Affairs.

Paul van Hooft, MIT SSP



Paul van Hooft is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Security Studies Program within the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research interests include the origins of American grand strategy and its limits; European security autonomy; issues of entanglement and extended deterrence; and the US responses to European deterrent(s).

Van Hooft was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI). He previously worked as a policy analyst at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS). Van Hooft received his Ph.D in political

science from the University of Amsterdam (UVA) and was awarded the 2016 prize from the Dutch and Flemish political science associations for his dissertation on the impact of experiences with war on postwar grand strategy.

Naoko Aoki, RAND



Naoko Aoki is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the RAND Corporation in Washington D.C. Her research interests include security issues in the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on the North Korean nuclear problem, the impact of domestic politics on international security policy and security cooperation.

She was formerly with *Kyodo News*, Japan's largest news agency, covering Japanese domestic politics and economic policy before serving as a Beijing correspondent. She covered the *Six Party Talks* on North Korea's denuclearization in Beijing and has visited North Korea 18 times. She holds a Ph.D. in international security policy from the University of Maryland, College Park, an M.A. in international relations and international economics from The Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a B.A. in English from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

Travis Carless, RAND



Travis Carless is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the RAND Corporation. He was awarded a PhD in Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University in May 2018 and is a 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. His research is centered on risk, life-cycle assessments, and nuclear energy and policy.

Prior to pursuing doctoral studies, Carless served as a functional design engineer at Westinghouse Electric Company in the AP1000 Nuclear Application Programs group. He received his M.S. in Industrial

Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.S. in Computer and Systems Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Sherzod Kurbanbekov, Texas A&M



Sherzod Kurbanbekov is a Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Fellow in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the Texas A&M University, College Station. His research interests include nuclear security problems of the peaceful use of atomic energy, improving nuclear safety in various fields of peaceful atomic activities and the mechanism of international monitoring of proliferation of nuclear weapons and how to prevent the illegal use of nuclear materials.

He received his Ph.D. in Materials Science from the D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan State Technical University, Ust-Kamenogorsk (Kazakhstan). He was employed at the Institute of Atomic Energy branch of the Republican State Enterprise National Nuclear Center of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Kurchatov as a researcher in October 2013. Currently, he is working in this institute as a Senior Researcher.

Kavita Rathore, Texas A&M



Kavita Rathore is a Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Fellow in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University, College Station. Her research interests include nuclear security culture, nuclear fuel cycle, non-destructive testing & evaluations.

Prior to Texas A&M University, Rathore completed her Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering and Technology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (India). Her Ph.D. dissertation focused on characterization of microwave induced multicusp plasma using optical emission tomography. She completed her Master of Technology (M.Tech.) degree in Nuclear Science and Technology from Delhi University, Delhi (India) and B.S. degree in Physics from Kota University, Kota (India).