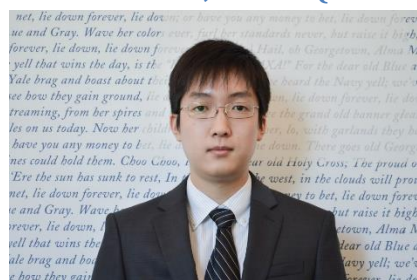


Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows Seminar

Fellows - Alphabetically by Institution

Nick Kodama, Belfer (hnk13@georgetown.edu)



Nick Kodama is a PhD candidate in Government at Georgetown University and a Stanton Nuclear Security Research Fellow at the Project on Managing the Atom and International Security Program at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. His research areas include deterrence theory, nuclear strategy, and nonproliferation with a regional focus on East Asia. His dissertation examines how policymakers think about deterrence and how the strategies they pursue to threaten or deter limited nuclear use shape nuclear postures.

He has an MA in Asian Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a BA in International and Global Studies from Brandeis University.

Alexander Sorg, Belfer (tareksorg@gmail.com)



Alexander Sorg is a postdoctoral Stanton Nuclear Security Research Fellow at the Project on Managing the Atom and International Security Program at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. His research interests include nuclear weapons, surveys, and citizens' willingness to fight. Specifically, he has focused on the relationship between military deployments, assurance, and deterrence within military alliances, as well as on how regional conflicts shape citizens' attitudes toward participating in violent conflict.

Currently, Alexander is researching the impact of foreign-deployed nuclear weapons on the behavior of host states in international affairs, alongside several other projects.

Prior to joining Harvard University, Alexander worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Sciences Po Paris, and the Free University Amsterdam. Alexander holds a Ph.D. in International Affairs from the Hertie School in Berlin. He received his M.A. in International Affairs from the Hertie School, and a B.A. in European Studies from Maastricht University. He has published in International Studies Quarterly, NATO Defense College Research Papers, and contributed opinion pieces to War on the Rocks as well as various German and Dutch newspapers.

Shuxian Luo, CFR (freewindpku2007@gmail.com)



Shuxian Luo is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C. Her research interests include Chinese foreign and security policies, maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, and U.S.-China relations, with an emphasis on crisis management. She is an assistant professor in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. She previously held appointments at the U.S. Naval War College, the Brookings Institution, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Notre Dame International Security Center, among others. She holds a Ph.D. in international affairs and an M.A. in China studies and international economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), an M.A. in political science from Columbia University, and a B.S. in English from Peking University, China.

Jonathan Panter, CFR (jgp2134@columbia.edu)



Jonathan Panter is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, NY. His research interests include U.S. Navy forward presence, maritime crisis management, and the effect of unmanned systems on escalation dynamics.

Mr. Panter will receive his Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University in October 2024. Prior to attending Columbia, he served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy, completing two operational deployments. He holds a B.A. in government from Cornell University.

Patrick Hulme, CISAC (mphulme@stanford.edu)



Patrick Hulme is currently a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation. For the 2023-24 academic year, he was a research fellow with the International Security Program at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He completed his Ph.D. in political science at the University of California San Diego in May 2023. For the summer of 2022, he was a summer associate with the RAND Center for Analysis of U.S. Grand Strategy, and for the 2020-2021 academic year he was a Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow at the Notre Dame International Security Center. His research and teaching interests include congressional-executive relations in U.S. foreign policy, constitutional law, deterrence theory, and the U.S.-China relationship. He has been a graduate student researcher for the Center for Peace and Security Studies (cPASS) and the 21st Century China Center, and is currently a non-resident fellow at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). His work has been published by *International Studies Quarterly*, *The National Interest*, *The Diplomat*, *Lawfare*, and other outlets. He has served as the instructor of record for classes on the Presidency, the U.S. Congress, and the Cold War. He holds a B.A. in economics with a minor in Chinese from the University of California, Davis, and a J.D.—with a specialization in International and Comparative Law—from the UCLA School of Law.

Fahd Humayun, CISAC (fhumayun@stanford.edu)



Fahd Humayun is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). He completed his PhD in Political Science from Yale University in 2022 before joining Tufts University as an Assistant Professor of Political

Science. He is also an affiliate with Yale University's Jackson School of Global Affairs' Nuclear Security Program. His research looks at the domestic sources of interstate conflict and crisis behavior, expanding on existing theories of democratic accountability and political representation as they pertain to domestic decision-making and crisis signaling. His book project, "Atomic Hawks: Opposition Parties & War" uses case studies of crisis decision-making in India, Israel, South Korea and the United States to explain why domestic politics compels some governments to commit to unanticipated national security pathways. He received his PhD in Political Science from Yale University in 2022. Prior to his PhD, he spent six years working on India-Pakistan Track II diplomacy at the Jinnah Institute, a public policy think-tank in Islamabad, Pakistan. He also holds an MPhil from the University of Cambridge and a BSc in International History from the London School of Economics.

Jake Hecla, MIT NSE (jakehecla@gmail.com)



Jake Hecla is a Stanton Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Laboratory for Nuclear Security and Policy. His research interests focus on emerging technologies, including nuclear thermal propulsion, micro-reactors, and advanced radiation detection techniques.

As a PhD candidate, he worked with the Rare Event Detection group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he developed diagnostics tools for antineutrino detectors. From 2017-20, he worked with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory developing algorithms for coded aperture image reconstruction. In 2018, he led a project to use LBL's "scene data fusion" radiation detection and mapping system to perform detailed mapping of the radiation environment in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and portions of the New Safe Confinement structure.

Hecla holds a PhD and MS in nuclear engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a BS in nuclear science and engineering from MIT.

Eli Sanchez, MIT SSP (es122530@mit.edu)



Eli Sanchez is a postdoctoral Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow in the Security Studies Program at MIT. He is currently studying the potential for emerging technologies to increase the vulnerability of US ballistic missile submarines.

He received his bachelor's degree in Chemistry with a minor in Physics from the University of Texas at Dallas. He next worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he used computational models to study the effects of radiation exposure on the human body. He then completed a PhD in the Nuclear Science and Engineering Department at MIT. His doctoral research assessed the implications of hypersonic boost-glide weapons for great power strategic stability.

Samuel Seitz, MIT SSP (seitz415@mit.edu)



Samuel Seitz is a Stanton Nuclear Postdoctoral Fellow at the MIT Security Studies Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His primary research focuses are the drivers of military force structure and procurement policy; international status seeking; and nuclear strategy, with a particular focus on the United Kingdom.

He completed his PhD at the University of Oxford and holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. His work has appeared in *The Washington Quarterly*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The US-China*

Perception Monitor. He has also worked as a summer associate and adjunct researcher for the RAND Corporation, where he contributed to a report on future U.S. Army fires systems.

Lauren Sukin, MIT SSP (L.Sukin@lse.ac.uk)



Lauren Sukin is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the MIT Security Studies Program in Cambridge, M.A. Her research focuses on the politics of nuclear alliances and nuclear security challenges in Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Lauren Sukin is currently an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is the incoming John G. Winant Associate Professor in US Foreign Policy in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University and a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College at Oxford University. She is a Centre Affiliate at LSE's United States Centre, an Affiliate at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), a Nonresident Scholar in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a Fellow at Charles University's Peace Research Centre Prague. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the Department of Political Science at Stanford University as well as B.A.s in Political Science and Literary Arts from Brown University.

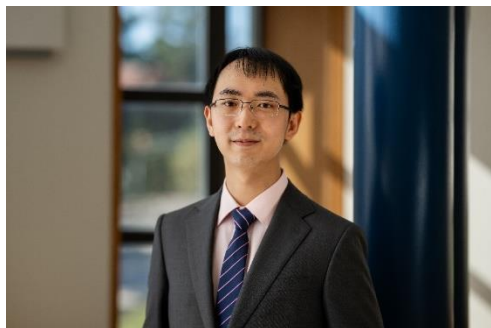
ElSayed Ghannam, RAND (eg978@georgetown.edu)



ElSayed Ghannam is a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at the RAND Corporation in Washington D.C. His research interests include the theory of international relations, the balance of power, nuclear and conventional deterrence, and the utility of nuclear weapons in terms of deterrence, coercion and compellence. He graduated with distinction from the Political Science Department in Cairo University where he majored in political science and international law, and minored in Economics. He wrote his Masters thesis at the University of Geneva on “Iran’s alliance with Syria and the Balance of Threat in the Middle East”. His Ph.D. dissertation at Virginia Tech University investigated comparative reactions to Israel’s nuclear posture. He received postdoctoral and visiting scholarships at Georgetown University and American University in Washington where he taught courses on “the Nuclear Age in the Middle East”. Prior to defending his dissertation, he received several fellowships from James Martin Center for Nonproliferation (one academic year); Sandia Laboratories, and Livermore Laboratories.

At the professional level, ElSayed is a career diplomat at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. His twenty years of experience in diplomacy has been exclusively dedicated to addressing arms control and regional security, as he served in the Israel Desk and the Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation Desks in different time spans. In addition, he served a four-year assignment in Tehran where he closely followed the Iranian nuclear file, the prospect of nuclear awakening. In 2018, he was officially nominated to serve in the Egyptian Mission to the IAEA. However, he declined the post in favor of an academic leave.

Elliot Ji, RAND (esji@princeton.edu)



Elliot Ji is a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the RAND Corporation in Washington, D.C. His research interests include Chinese military and security policy in nuclear and conventional settings, military technological innovation, and the role of Chinese political institutions in military affairs.

Elliot is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Politics, Princeton University, and a lecturer (part-time) at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He was formerly an adjunct researcher at the RAND Corporation, an intern and contract researcher at the National Defense University, and a summer research associate at the Center for Global Security Research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. From 2022 to 2023, Elliot was the Director of Strategic Education Initiative for the Center of International Security Studies at Princeton. Before attending Princeton, Elliot received a master's degree in global affairs from Tsinghua University as a Schwarzman Scholar and a B.A. in political science from Emory University.

Benjamin R. Young, RAND (byoun3@gmail.com)



Dr. Benjamin R. Young is a Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security at the RAND Corporation. He is the author of the book, *Guns, Guerillas, and the Great Leader: North Korea and the Third World* (Stanford University Press, 2021). He currently has a second book manuscript under review with Cornell University Press, tentatively entitled, "The Afterlives of Communist Revolution: The Third World Left, Guerilla Warfare, and the Evolution of Insurgent Strategy from 1949 to the Present." He has taught a wide range of international and national security

courses at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dakota State University, and the U.S Naval War College.

Dr. Young's research and teaching interests broadly revolve around authoritarianism, ideology, and political radicalism. He has published more than a dozen peer-reviewed scholarly articles on Cold War international history, East Asian politics, and North Korean studies in peer-reviewed journals, such as the *International History Review*, *the International Journal of Korean Unification Studies*, and *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*. He was a 2018-2019 CSIS/USC NextGen US-Korea Scholar and has also written journalistic pieces for *The Washington Post*, *The Diplomat*, *Foreign Policy*, *Nikkei Asia*, *The National Interest*, *The Hill*, and *NKNews.org*. Dr. Young has lived in South Korea during a Fulbright fellowship and has traveled extensively in North Korea, Cuba, China, and Russia. He holds a PhD in history from George Washington University, a MA in history from SUNY Brockport, and B.S in history from SUNY Brockport.

Simon Adu, Texas A&M (adu@tamu.edu)



Simon Adu is a 2024– 2025 Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Center of Nuclear Security Science and Policy Initiatives at Texas A&M University. Dr. Adu's research interests include nuclear security, non-proliferation, and safety. His research focuses on the Comprehensive Assessment of Regional Security Threats on Emerging Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Deployment in Sub-Saharan Africa. He holds a PhD., MPhil in Radiation Protection from the University of Ghana, and BSc in Physics from the University of Cape Coast.

Sylvester Attakorah Birikorang, Texas A&M (sylvester.birikorang@nra.gov.gh)



Sylvester Attakorah Birikorang is currently a postdoctoral researcher and a 2024-2025 Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow with the Center for Nuclear Security Science and Policy Initiatives (NSSPI) at Texas A&M University, where he is researching assessing radiological emergency

preparedness and mitigation strategies in West Africa: A study on proliferation risk and radionuclide dispersion following a potential terrorist attack on Nuclear Power Plants. He holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering, which he completed in 2014 through an IAEA sandwich fellowship program at the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS), University of Ghana, and Università di Pisa, Italy. He also holds a First Level Special Master's in Nuclear Safeguards from Dipartimento Di Energia, Politecnico Di Milano, Italy, funded by the European Union, which he completed in October 2022. Before the Stanton fellowship program, he worked as the Head of the Nuclear Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Department at the Nuclear Installation Directorate of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority in Ghana. He worked with the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission in the National Nuclear Research Institute for 8 years as a Research Scientific Officer and was the lead of the Reactor Physics Group at the Ghana Research Reactor-1 (GHARR-1) facility. Before leaving the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission for the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, he moved from the grade of Research Scientist to Senior Research Scientist. He is currently with the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, rising through the ranks from Senior Nuclear Research Scientist to Chief Nuclear Research Scientist/Regulator. Dr. Birikorang has more than 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals. His areas of expertise encompass Radiological Management and Radiation Safety, Nuclear Safeguards and Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Reactor Safety, and Nuclear Security, all aligning with IAEA best practices. His duties have included drafting nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation regulations, inspecting and verifying research reactors and industrial facilities, and training officers on nuclear safeguards, radiation safety, and the use of radiation detection equipment.

He played a crucial role in IAEA-coordinated research projects, leading to the conversion of Ghana Research Reactor-1 (GHARR-1) fuel from High Enriched Uranium (HEU) to Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) and was the lead for transport and emergency preparedness and response of the core conversion project group. He was the local technical expert for the CBRN COE project 60, which supports the Center of Excellence of Eastern and Central Africa in nuclear security. He has been a member of the CBRN committee in Ghana and was involved in developing the CBRN national action plan (NAP). Dr Birikorang is a Senior lecturer at the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, University of Ghana, supervising numerous MPhil and PhD students. He is also a part-time lecturer at the Winneba College for Distance and E-Learning at the University of Education, Winneba, supervising more than 30 post-graduate students and graduate students respectively.

Furthermore, Dr Birikorang has vital experience in organizing workshops and training programs focused on nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation, bringing together experts, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from Africa and around the world to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and enhance the capacity of individuals and organizations involved in nuclear safeguards efforts. He has participated in AFCONE and STUK missions of Uplifting Nuclear Safeguards in Africa to share his experience in areas such as SSAC, detection measures, and non-proliferation activities. Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Birikorang is a devoted family man, married to Dorcas Peggy Appiah, and has a son with her, taking pride in spending quality time with his family.