

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION: HISTORICAL APPRAISAL AND PRESENT PROBLEMS

Florence, 4-5 October 2007



Organized by:

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany
University of Florence, Italy
University of Rome-3, Italy
Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies, Italy
International Network of Engineers and Scientists
International Peace Bureau

Nuclear proliferation is one of the key challenges to the stability of the contemporary international system, and the current non-proliferation regime seems increasingly unable to meet the expectations of its designers. Since the signature of the Non Proliferation Treaty in 1968, nuclear powers have barely fulfilled their commitments to reduce their atomic arsenals, while the number of non-nuclear countries that have crossed the threshold status and are now regarded as full-fledged atomic powers has increased and threatens to keep growing.

We firmly believe that a deeper understanding of the political and psychological roots of nuclear proliferation can only be achieved through a strong interdisciplinary effort, combining the skills and expertise of scholars from highly different fields. Consistent and reliable results in the field of non-proliferation can be reached only with the contribution and collaboration of specialists from many disciplines – such as history of science, political science, international history, sociology, and economics. We hope this workshop will provide a useful contribution in this direction.

Key contemporary issues will be analysed during the workshop, such as the dual use of nuclear technology and the costs of nuclear weapons programs, the regional dimensions of contemporary proliferation (namely the Pacific Region and the Middle East) and the current disarmament programs (ranging from US and Russian disarmament policies to the ambiguities of Franco-British nuclear cooperation within the EU).

Program Committee:

Angelo Baracca (University of Florence)
Reiner Braun (INES)
Cristiano Franceschini (IPB-Italia, Italy)
Marilena Gala (CIMA, University of Rome-3)
Matteo Gerlini (CIMA, University of Florence)
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CIMA

The Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies (CIMA) is an inter-university network linking the activities of a number of Cold War historians based at the Universities of Florence, Padua, Pavia, Perugia, Roma Tre, and Urbino. It is perhaps the most important academic institution for international studies in Italy and certainly the core of a large network of international academic contacts.

INES

The International Network of Engineers and Scientist (INES) is an independent no-profit organisation concerned about the impact of science and technology on society. INES works mainly through projects, initiated by members or by collaborative organisations. Currently the most visible projects are the Network against nuclear proliferation INESAP and the ethics network INESPE. INES is affiliated with the United Nations and with UNESCO as a non-governmental organisation.

MPIWG

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) in Berlin is one of 80 research institutes in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities administered by the Max Planck Society. The MPIWG is involved in collaborations with scientists, historians of art and architecture, jurists, archaeologists, and museum curators. The Institute also promotes the application of new computer technologies to research in the humanities.

IPB

The International Peace Bureau (IPB) was founded as a result of the third Universal Peace Congress in Rome, 1891, with Fredrik Bajer one of its principal founders and its first president. The present aim of the International Peace Bureau is «to serve the cause of peace by the promotion of international cooperation and non-violent solution of international conflicts».

October 4

Aula Magna of the Rectorate, P.za San Marco 4

10.00 a.m. Opening remarks and welcome

Augusto Marinelli, Rector of the University of Florence
Angelo Baracca, Department of Physics, University of Florence
Ennio Di Nolfo, President of CIMA, University of Florence
Riccardo Nencini, President of The Regional Council of Tuscany
Matteo Renzi, Administration of the Province of Florence

11.00 a.m. Introductions

Jürgen Renn, MPIWG, Germany
“Knowledge of Nuclear Technology and the Role of Scientists”
Jack Steinberger, Nobel Prize in Physics, Switzerland
“The Nuclear Threat: The Only Solution Is Global Nuclear Disarmament, the Necessary Prerequisite Is US Willingness to Lead the Way”
David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, USA
“Nuclear Dangers and Challenges to a New Nuclear Policy”

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Panel 1 Nuclear Technologies and Their Costs

Chair: Reiner Braun, INES, Germany
Alla Yaroshinskaya, Alternative Nobel Laureate, Russia
“From Nucleus to Nuclear Targeting and Proliferation”
Wolfgang Liebert, Darmstadt University, Germany
“The Janus Face of Nuclear Technology”
William Burr, National Security Archive, USA
“The Costs of the American Nuclear Program”

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 Panel 2: Regions of Nuclear Proliferation

Chair: Marilena Gala, CIMA, Italy
Herbert Wulf, International Center for Conversion, Germany
“The Challenges to End North Korea's Nuclear Program”
Avner Cohen, University of Maryland, USA
“Israel as a Reluctant Proliferator”
Mohamed Kadry Said, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt
“Nuclear Proliferation in the Greater Middle East: Current Developments and Future Prospects”

Malcolm Byrne, National Security Archive, USA
“Nuclear Developments in Iran”

Regional Council, Palazzo Panciatichi, Via Cavour

19.30 Cocktail dinner

Dinner speech

Rainer Karlsch, MPIWG, Germany
“The German Nuclear Weapons Program during WWII”

October 5

School of Political Sciences, Via delle Pandette 21

9.00 a.m. Panel 3: Current Nuclear Problems

Chair: Leopoldo Nuti, CIMA, Italy
Beatrice Heuser, Bundeswehr University, Germany
“French-British Nuclear Cooperation under the EU Umbrella”
Svetlana Savranskaya, National Security Archive, USA
“Soviet and Russian Nuclear Disarmament Policies from Gorbachev to Putin”
Pavel Podvig, Stanford University, USA
“Missile Defence Issues in US-Russian Relations”

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Panel 4: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policies

Chair: Vojtech Mastny, Parallel History Project, Zurich
Eric Terzuolo, University of Rome-3, Italy
“NATO and Weapons of Mass Destruction”
Hans Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists, USA
“US Nuclear Weapons in Europe after the Cold War”
Joseph Cirincione, Center for American Progress, USA (*to be confirmed*)
“The Current State of Non Proliferation: An Assessment”

12.30 Lunch

14.30 Concluding lecture

John Finney, Pugwash, United Kingdom
“(In the tradition of J. Rotblat): Steps towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and War”

15.00 Conference ends

Further and Collateral Events

In the 50th anniversary of the IAEA (1957-2007), the Faculty of Mathematical Physical and Natural Sciences of the University of Florence has approved the award of a Honorary Degree in “Physics and Astronomy” to Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, Director General of the IAEA and Nobel Laureate for Peace in 1995. The ceremony and El Baradei's lecture are foreseen in the context of the development of the works of the Conference, in the afternoon of Friday, October 5, in the Aula Magna of the Rectorate.

The Municipality of Florence has approved the award of the Honorary Citizenship of Florence to Dr. El Baradei, that will be awarded by the Mayor, Leonardo Domenici, in a public ceremony that will take place on Saturday, October 6, in Palazzo Vecchio.