



2009 Fall Conference
October 26 – 27
Royal Society
London

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Send to Mark Jansson at mjansson@csis.org by September 25, 2009

The Center for Strategic and International Studies established the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) in order to develop and sustain a vibrant community of nuclear weapons experts. The PONI conference series brings together junior and senior level professionals from the laboratories, the military, and industry, academia and policy sectors to hear selected presentations on nuclear weapons infrastructure, strategy and policy. PONI holds three regional conferences per year and then a final Capstone Conference at United States Strategic Command in Omaha, Nebraska. The Capstone Conference features selected presentations from preceding regional conferences and offers individuals an opportunity to present their work to senior leadership at Strategic Command and from across the nuclear enterprise. Those who present at the Capstone Conference will also be invited to publish a paper based on their presentation in a journal produced by CSIS.

We are now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2009 Fall Conference, which will be held on October 26 - 27 at the Royal Society in London. This conference, like each PONI conference this year, will generally focus on the following four topics.

- Sustaining Infrastructure Capabilities and Competence
- Nuclear Posture
- Proliferation and Nuclear Terrorism
- Nuclear Arms Reductions, Control and Disarmament

A more detailed version of the 2009 PONI Research Agenda accompanies this call for presentations. Additionally, a \$500 honorarium is being offered for presentations on issues related to Technical Nuclear Forensics. **Presentations are to be no more than 11 slides in length and no longer than 10 minutes.** Your presentation proposal should be no more than 2 pages and, although there are no formal requirements, would ideally include the following.

1. Your name and business/school affiliation
2. Notional title of presentation
3. Issue background (brief)
4. Summary of thesis or argument

The due date for presentation proposals is September 25, 2009. Decisions will be made within a few days thereafter. Travel support is available for presenters lacking university or organizational backing. If you have any questions about the submission process for the PONI Fall Conference, please contact PONI Coordinator Mark Jansson at (202) 775-3286 or mjansson@csis.org. More information about the Project on Nuclear Issues can be found on the PONI website, located at <http://www.csis.org/isp/poni/>.

2009 PONI Research Agenda

Sustaining Infrastructure Capabilities and Competence

Maintaining competence in nuclear weapons stewardship and management is critical to guaranteeing the ability to fulfill current and future missions. Presentations might address:

- Balancing laboratory efficiency and performance requirements with a finite budget
- Role and viability of dual-use science and engineering in retaining nuclear weapons competency to sustain the stockpile and to verify treaty compliance
- Leveraging scientific expertise generated through nuclear weapons programs to develop new technologies and national security applications
- Governance and management of the nuclear enterprise

Nuclear Posture

Nuclear posture is shaped in a complex environment shaped by changing strategic requirements, political realities and technical constraints. Presentations might address:

- Contemporary deterrence: traditional adversaries, non-state actors and state facilitators
- Extended deterrence: ally and adversary perceptions
- Operationalizing the strategic triad or other potential models
- Declaratory policy: components and articulation
- Ballistic missile defense capabilities and strategic significance
- Key issues shaping the upcoming U.S. Nuclear Posture Review

Proliferation and Nuclear Terrorism

Nuclear weapons proliferation and the corollary risk of nuclear terrorism comprise what is arguably the greatest threat to international security. Presentations might address:

- Handling proliferation risks related to the expanded use of nuclear energy worldwide
- Technical nuclear forensics capabilities (pre and post-detonation) and their role in deterring and responding to terrorism
- Improving the physical security of deployed stockpiles
- Securing all nuclear materials and vulnerable sites
- Strengthening the counter-proliferation framework, institutionalizing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), and design of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.
- Slowing nuclear weapons procurement supply chains through export controls and UNSCR 1540

Nuclear Arms Reductions, Control and Disarmament

The thinking space around nuclear weapons should encompass a prudent approach to nuclear arms control, reductions and disarmament. Presentations might address:

- International scientific cooperation: possibilities and political significance
- Balancing NPT Article VI obligations with maintaining reliable nuclear weapons stockpiles
- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) follow-on and extension
- Negotiating a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty
- Globalizing the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty
- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) plans for ratification and entry into force

This agenda is intended for use as a reference for those interested in presenting and not to predetermine presentation topics in advance of the conference. PONI will consider all nuclear-weapons related presentation proposals and will develop an agenda comprised of the best presentations, which will be grouped into five panels of 3 or 4 speakers per panel.