



2012 FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 18-19, 2012

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The PONI yearly conference series brings together junior and senior level professionals from across the nuclear enterprise to discuss a wide range of nuclear issues. PONI conferences are unique in the high value that they place on featuring new faces in the field, as discussion panels feature some of the best and brightest graduate students, post-docs and young professionals. PONI holds three regional conferences per year and a year-end capstone event that features selected presentations from the preceding three.

Those who present at the capstone event will also be invited to publish a paper in the yearly *Collection of Papers from the PONI Conference Series*.

We are now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2012 Fall Conference, which will take place October 18-19th the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. The event will consist of two days of panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a final evening reception. This conference will focus on, but will not be limited to, the topics listed in the attached research agenda.

Your presentation proposal should be no more than 1 page (single-spaced) and should include the following.

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

Presentation proposals are due to Stephanie Spies at sspies@csis.org by September 28, 2012.

Travel support is available for presenters lacking university or organizational backing. Please contact PONI Program Coordinator Stephanie Spies at (202) 741-3941 or sspies@csis.org with questions about the conference. More information about the Project on Nuclear Issues and the Conference Series can be found on the PONI website, located at <http://www.csis.org/isp/poni/>.

2012 Research Agenda

The following research agenda is provided to outline, in broad terms, topics of interest for the 2012 Conference Series. It is neither exhaustive nor determinative; PONI will consider all presentation proposals insofar as they relate to the general topical areas identified below.

Nuclear Strategy and Deterrence for the 21st Century

Presentations may cover issues such as: developing a contemporary understanding of strategic stability; the effects of advanced conventional weaponry and new space-based and cyber capabilities on models of deterrence and crisis escalation; extended deterrence and assurance among U.S. allies whose security outlook is evolving and, at times, diverging; building regional security architectures in the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere; deterring limited, episodic attacks and attacks by non-state actors; etc.

The Nonproliferation Hard Cases

Presentations may cover issues such as: creating a diplomatic path to address concerns over Iran's nuclear program and to denuclearize the Korean peninsula; establishing a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East; preventing the region-wide spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and East Asia; dealing with the expansion of latent capability brought about by increased reliance on nuclear energy; regime stability and the implications of recent leadership transitions; challenges facing the IAEA in its role as a facilitator of access to, and monitor of, peaceful uses of nuclear technology; etc.

U.S. Nuclear Force Structure and Complex Modernization

Presentations may cover issues such as: building a political consensus on the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security; modernizing the nuclear complex in an austere fiscal environment; the future of the triad and considerations for reshaping U.S. nuclear force structure; sustaining key technologies and skill sets across the nuclear enterprise; intergenerational knowledge transfer after the testing era; carrying out the nuclear mission in the USAF and USN; etc.

Understanding New Developments in Nuclear Science and Technology

Presentations may cover issues such as: the effects of aging materials and other challenges associated with stockpile stewardship; how sub-critical testing and advanced computational and modeling abilities help monitor and certify the stockpile; the policy implications of new developments in the field of nuclear forensics, detection, and arms control and nonproliferation verification; 'proliferation-resistant' technologies; etc.

Arms Control and Force Reductions on the Path to Disarmament

Presentations may cover issues such as: political and technical challenges of bilateral arms control with Russia; the future of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the International Monitoring System (IMS); breaking the gridlock on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT); P5 consultations on transparency and multilateral arms control; nuclear warhead dismantlement backlog; confidence-building measures, regional security cooperation, and other efforts to create the conditions in which nuclear disarmament could be possible; etc.

Building a Global Nuclear Security Regime

Presentations may cover issues such as: global security engagement and building partner capacity to protect sensitive materials, technology, and information; keys to success during, before, and after the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit; building an effective and enforceable global export control regime; using public-private partnership to encourage responsible stewardship of dual-use materials and technologies; using UNSCR 1540 and other legal tools to prevent nuclear smuggling; etc.