

**Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on
International Arms Control Law**

**Seminar Two
Nuclear Weapons: Challenges and Opportunities
26-27 September 2022**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Asser Institute Doctoral Seminar Series on International Arms Control Law will provide a select number of early career researchers with insights into the current and future issues raised by International Arms Control Law with perspectives from international law and related disciplines. At each seminar, academics and practitioners will deliver several expert lectures on the international legal framework of arms control, geo-political perspectives on arms control, institutional and procedural frameworks for control and disarmament, as well as emerging issues and trends. Additionally, the seminar provides an opportunity for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to present an aspect of their research related to International Arms Control to foster interdisciplinary exchange among peers in a low-stakes environment.

Topic of the Seminar

The second 2022 arms control seminar features the topic of 'Nuclear Weapons: Challenges and Opportunities'. Originally scheduled for May 2020, the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is now due to be held in August this year. Since the delegates last met, numerous controversial developments have taken place in the field. Strategic instability is increasing among nuclear weapon states, with several nuclear and conventional weapons agreements and practices discarded since the last review conference and nuclear weapon states reviving their reliance on nuclear weapons. Frustrated with the slow process of disarmament, non-nuclear weapon states acted to elaborate a new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons for all states on the basis of international humanitarian law. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has 86 signatories, entered into force on 22 January 2021. The treaty has split states into two camps, those favouring the NPT deterrence model and those favouring global disarmament. Given these factors, the Tenth NPT Review Conference will provide a crucial moment to build new consensus on arms control processes for the future.

Seminar Programme

Location: Asser Institute (Mancini Room)
Date: Monday 26 – Tuesday 27 September 2022
Organizers: Professor Thilo Marauhn; Thea Coventry

Participation in the workshop is per invitation, extended to approximately 10 doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers who are currently conducting research in arms control, whether from legal, historical, political or theoretical perspectives. Please email Thea Coventry (t.coventry@asser.nl) to register for the event by Monday 12 September, including your university affiliation and research focus. Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is organized in-person.

The seminar will be structured around three lectures spread over two days on the topics of: 1) the normative shift in nuclear arms control; 2) negotiating arms control treaties; and 3) the Tenth NPT Review Conference. On Tuesday 27 September, the participants will engage in a roundtable discussion on their research topics, guided by Asser Institute researchers. Additionally, the participating doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers have the **option** to give an individual 15 to 20 minute presentation on their research. Participants wishing to present their research should submit a short abstract on their presentation topic by email to Thea Coventry by Monday 19 September.

Participants in the seminar are also kindly invited to join, as part of the programme, an expert panel discussion reflecting on the **Tenth NPT Review Conference**, which will take place at the Asser Institute on Tuesday 27 September at 14:00 in the Mandala Room.

Timeline

12 September 2022	Deadline for registration
19 September 2022	Submission of abstracts for PhD/Postdoctoral presentations
26 to 27 September 2022	Nuclear Weapons Seminar

Preliminary Schedule

Day 1: Monday 26 September 2022
10.30-11.00 **Words of Welcome**
Opening and round of introductions

Morning Session 11.00 to 13.00	
11.00-12.00	From Nuclear Deterrence to Disarmament: Nuclear Arms Control in the 21st Century Dr Susan Martin (<i>Senior Lecturer in International Relations, Kings College London</i>)
12.00-12.30	Discussion
12.30-13.00	Lunch

Afternoon Session 13.00 to 16.30	
13.00-14.00	Negotiating Arms Control Treaties: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez (<i>2022 Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow, Harvard University</i>)
14.00-14.30	Discussion
14.30-15.00	Coffee/Tea Break
15.00-16.00	The Tenth NPT Review Conference: Challenges and Opportunities Dr Rebecca Johnson (<i>Executive Director, ACRONYM Institute</i>)
16.00- 16.30	Discussion

Day 2: Tuesday 27 September 2022

Morning Session 10.00 to 13.00

- 10:00-11.00 **Early Career Researcher Round Table**
Short Explanation of Research Topics by Participants
- 11.00-11.15 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.15-12.30 **Early Career Researcher Round Table Continued**
Doctoral Candidate and Postdoctoral Researcher Presentations
- 12.30-13.00 Lunch Break

Afternoon Session 14.00 to 16.30

- 14.00-16.30 **Expert Panel Discussion: Reflecting on the Tenth NPT Review Conference**
Moderator: Thilo Maruhn (*Extraordinary Professor of International Arms Control, Asser Institute*)
- Discussants:**
Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez (*2022 Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow, Harvard University*)
Dr Rebecca Johnson (*Executive Director, ACRONYM Institute*)
Ana de Velde Harsenhorst (*Senior Policy Officer on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Evening Session 16.30 to 18.30

- 16.30-18.30 **Closing Reception**