

Science for Peace

December 22, 2022

President's Column



Dear members,

I would like to bring your attention to a recent, excellent Webinar organized by Science for Peace in which Emily Gilbert, a Professor at the University of Toronto, talked about Militarization and of Climate Change.

Currently, the exact contribution of the world's military to global greenhouse emissions is unknown, although it is estimated to be around 5 to 6 %, more than those from the shipping and aviation industries combined. The reason for this lack of certainty arises from the fact that the 2015 Paris Agreement, which left cutting military greenhouse emissions to the discretion of individual nations. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change requires that signatories publish total annual greenhouse emissions, but for most countries military emissions reporting is voluntary, and often unclear, inaccurate, or not included. According to a recent report by the Scientists for Global Responsibility, if the world military were a country, it would rank 4th in terms of carbon footprint, only behind China, the USA and India. A recent extensive study by Boston Univ. Professor Neta Crawford in 2019 reported that the Overseas Contingency Operations (war-related) greenhouse gas emissions of the USA military from 2001 to 2018 was more than 440 million metric tons of CO₂. Still, the Biden administration has not imposed hard limits on DOD emissions. In a recent Executive Order, Biden pledged to cut federal government's carbon footprint to zero by 2050, but exempted anything

related to national security. Given the increase in military spending going on in the world, it is clear that this exemption will allow for further increase of greenhouse emissions.

Professor's Gilbert presentation provided a clear justification for one of the main goals of Science for Peace: the reduction of militarism as one of the ways to fight climate change. Emily makes a number of other important points. You will find the link below under 'Recent Events.'

On December 9th Science for Peace organized a movie night at Cinecycle. We showed the classical anti-war movie Dr. Strangelove and we also enjoyed a musical interlude by our own Arnd Jurgensen. We plan to continue with our movie nights, which we would like to become a regular activity of Science for Peace.

Getting close to the New Year I urge you again to renew your annual membership, which is tax deductible. You can do this by going to <https://www.scienceforpeace.org/> and click at the [Donate](#) sign.

Finally, I would like to wish you happy holidays, hoping that in the New Year you will continue to contribute to our fight for a peaceful, sustainable world without nuclear weapons and wars, including the war in Ukraine.

Jorge Filmus
President, Science for Peace

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 19, 2023, 7 PM ET

Co-sponsored by Science for Peace

Take Action to Ban Plutonium Reprocessing in Canada

- Watch the campaign [launch message](#) by Dr. Gordon Edwards
- Visit the campaign web page at reprocessing.ca
- Share a "Ban Reprocessing" [post on social media](#)
- [Register](#) for the January 19th webinar
- Call or write to [your MP](#) and demand a ban on reprocessing



Dr. Gordon Edwards, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

Launch Message for the Campaign to Ban Plutonium Reprocessing in Canada, December 2022

Register

Recent Events

Science for Peace Presents
Dr. Strangelove
How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb
A Stanley Kubrick Film
December 9th, @ 7pm

Where: **Cinecycle** (In the old coach house down the lane, behind 129 Spadina Ave, on the east side between Richmond St. W. and Adelaide St. W.)
Special Musical Interlude by Arnd Jurgensen
Discussion following film
Admission is free but PWC is welcomed

A movie poster for 'Dr. Strangelove' featuring a large, fiery nuclear mushroom cloud in the background. In the foreground, there is a black and white portrait of Dr. Strangelove, played by Peter Sellers, wearing his signature sunglasses and holding a cigarette.



EMILY GILBERT, A PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND VICE-PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, STUDIES SECURITISATION AND MILITARIZATION WITH RESPECT TO BORDERS, THE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

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MILITARIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SPEAKER: PROF EMILY GILBERT

[View video](#)

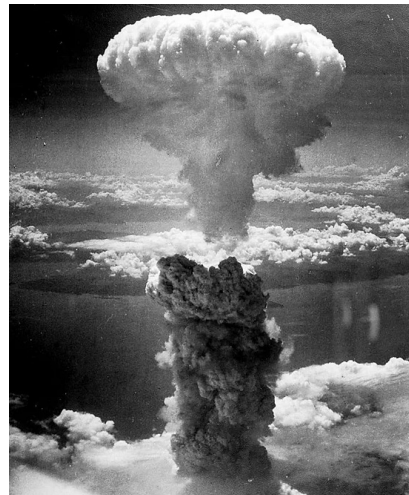
Recent Articles



Boris Kyrychenko:
How should Canada react to the Polish missile strike and growing nuclear risks? A Call for Peace

In early November, a frightening escalation occurred in the Russo-Ukrainian War. During Russia's largest bombardment operation yet, a missile struck the Polish city of Przewodów, 6 km from the Ukrainian border, killing two civilians. Condemnation of the violence by various heads of state was swift, furious, and justified.

[Read More](#)



Arnd Jurgensen:
Still Waiting for "No First Use" Declaration from the USA

It is unfortunately not unusual for a politician to break the promises they campaigned on to get elected. It is certainly not unusual in U.S. presidential politics. Many of us remember the 2008 election in which then candidate Obama promised, among other things, to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, the existence of which is an abominable blight on the reputation of the country.

[Read More](#)

Tom Deligiannis



I would like to thank the Board for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the direction and efforts of Science for Peace in the next year. I believe that Science for Peace is an effective organization to help educate and mobilize Canadians about the dangers of nuclear weapons and our government's tacit approval of policies that risk nuclear extinction. That's why I've been working with Science for Peace for almost two years, first as an organizer of the student forum on nuclear weapons, then as a member of the nuclear weapons working group, and now as part of the Board.

I am especially interested in trying to raise awareness in coming years among young people about the on-going dangers and horrors of nuclear weapons. I can't help but notice that the majority of Canada's anti-nuclear activists cut their teeth on these issues during the Cold War, present company included. Certainly, with age comes wisdom and understanding about the tremendous complexity of nuclear weapons issues. But I worry that the thinning numbers of those of us who understand the existential danger to humanity from nuclear weapons risks forfeiting decision-making on these issues to a small number of foreign policy and defence policy practitioners in Ottawa. Nuclear weapons are too important to be left to government alone; we need a wide cross-section of Canadians to understand and work towards the elimination of these weapons if we're to avoid catastrophe.

Developments in recent years have dashed my post-Cold War hopes that humanity recognized the insanity of building large arsenals of nuclear weapons and was on a path to their elimination. Recent events have caused me to return to issues that I thought I had left behind. In the early 1990s, as a young graduate student, I was doing archival research in the United States on the US Army's early Cold War plans for employing tactical nuclear weapons. But as the decade progressed, working on Cold War nuclear weapons issues seemed increasingly anachronistic, especially in the face of a range of new problems like accelerating human pressure on the Earth's environment, re-emergent deadly pathogens, and peacebuilding efforts in the UN to end rampant civil wars. I stopped working on nuclear weapons and switched for my doctoral studies to studying environmental conflict, a problem that has worsened with climate change. In my professional work, I replaced one existential threat with another.

For more than a decade, my nuclear weapons education work has been in the classroom -using history to help university students understand the continuing danger of nuclear weapons. Ten years ago, I was confidently telling my students that humanity was moving in the right direction with nukes; New Start was leading to deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons and there was hope that these cuts, along with a range of other treaties like the Test Ban Treaty, would progressively lead to smaller arsenals and reduced dangers. The end-game of elimination was still unclear and disregarded by the P5, but at least the trends were going in the right direction.

No more, unfortunately. In the mid-2010s, I found it increasingly hard to remain positive that incremental cuts and controls on nuclear weapons would lead to total elimination. As Ray Acheson so ably explains in her recent book, the P5 not only started digging in their heels about further cuts and abiding by their NPT responsibilities to eliminate these weapons, but the US and Russia embarked on a multi-billion modernization effort, including developing new types of nuclear weapons. By the time the narcissistic 45th President took his seat in the White House, I found myself as alarmed about the prospect of nuclear war as I had been in the mid-1980s. I redoubled my classroom efforts at Laurier to educate students about the continuing threats

from nuclear weapons, and I started looking around for Canadian groups that I could work with who were active in educating Canadians and pressuring our government to work to eliminate nuclear weapons. At some point, I came across Science for Peace, a group I was slightly familiar with from my time at the University of Toronto. I was delighted to see that Science for Peace was then being led by Richard Sandbrook, a former professor of mine. Moreover, my interest in controlling the dangers of nuclear weapons and working to reverse climate change seemed to be mirrored in Science for Peace's priorities. This is the context behind my recent activities to help create a university student forum on nuclear weapons. I'm also very interested in other work we've been doing recently, like the non-violent resistance working group, an area that I've also been teaching for several years, and the recent climate security seminar, which is directly in my professional research focus these days.

However, as much as I find that there's a close parallel between my interests and the activities of Science for Peace, my interaction over the past two years with you, the members, is what has really drawn me into the organization – Richard's able leadership, Phyllis' deep knowledge, Arndt and Rob's passion for nuclear abolition. Getting to know so many wonderful people who share a vision for a safer, saner world has convinced me to get more involved with Science for Peace.

I certainly don't agree with everyone or every position in Science for Peace. In recent months, I've found myself disagreeing profoundly with some members on the Ukraine war. Science for Peace clearly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, and I support this position. The moral imperative to help Ukraine repel Russian aggression and invasion is clear to me, even if this means continuing to fight a war that is killing and maiming thousands. While I believe in the power of non-violent political action, I'm not a pacifist. And I cannot let my hostility to US imperialism blind me to opposing Russian imperialism in Europe, an imperialism that actively seeks to destroy Ukraine and destroy progress we have made towards a rule-based international society in the past thirty years. As long as the people of Ukraine want to risk their lives to actively fight the destruction of their state, I will support efforts to arm and aid Ukraine to fight Russia.

I realize that this is a controversial position for me to take, someone professing to want to be part of a peace organization. I've been reluctant to express my views on Ukraine openly in recent meetings. However, I don't see my position on the Ukraine war as inconsistent with working with Science for Peace to reduce nuclear dangers and reverse climate change. Nor do I see my position on Ukraine as inconsistent with opposing global imperialism and establishing common security – again, widely held goals within Science for Peace.

Tom Deligiannis

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