

Science for Peace

December 18, 2020

President's Column



Dear Members,

The executive has been busy lately. We received final reports from our two fine interns, on nuclear weapons, Nicholas Lovrics and Pitasanna Shanmugathas. You can read and listen to the products of their research work on our website. Just this week, Jorge Filmus and I selected two new interns on the climate and militarism issue. From among seven strong applicants, Sara Beiruti and Daniel Hoogsteen emerged on the top of our lists. You will be hearing from these two young scholars and activists in January, as they join us in pressing forward our program on dealing with the climate crisis.

I draw your attention to Holly Easton's contribution under Focus on Members. Holly, the youngest member of the executive, has learned some lessons about social media that she wishes to share with us. Her idea of forming task forces on various issues to channel relevant images and ideas to our social media, is potentially an important contribution that all interested members can make.

Such task forces would focus directly on our goal of popular education and research on peace issues. We would aim to foster communities of interest online whose members will continue the conversations we begin. We must learn to be more interactive, as a top-down broadcasting of our positions is no longer effective in the digital universe.

Finally, PLEASE renew your memberships via the Join/Donate button on our website (or send a cheque by post). If you can bring in new members, please do so., We are running a financial deficit, and we need your financial as well as intellectual and moral support.

In the longer term, we must find donors who permit us to hire a full-time executive director. Our operation is now simply too complex to be run wholly by volunteers, together with Melisa Kuc's invaluable part-time assistance.

Richard Sandbrook
President, Science for Peace
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
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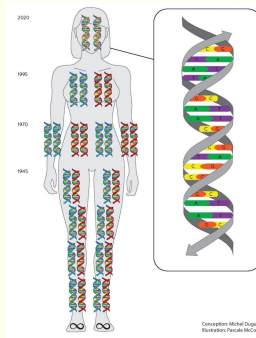
Recent Articles



Pitasanna Shanmugathas: Why Biden must address the nuclear threat

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' doomsday clock, which symbolizes how close the world is to global catastrophe, is presently at 100 seconds to midnight. This is the closest the clock has been to midnight in its history..

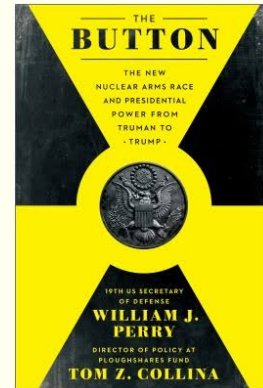
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Michel Duguay: Deep-time self-identity in nuclear disarmament

But one can go farther along the time dimension: since genetic information is transferred from one generation to the next with great reliability, one can build a picture of self-identity..

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Interview with Tom Collina, co-author of The Button: The New Nuclear Arms Race and Presidential Power from Truman to Trump

To hear the full interview, please click on the link below!

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Recent Activities

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Hill Times Campaign: Co-sponsored by Science for Peace



LET US SPEAK. LET PARLIAMENT DECIDE. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been endorsed by 122 nations, and will become international law for more than 51 ratifying States on January 22, 2021. Regrettably, Canada boycotted negotiations in 2017 and has refused to sign or ratify this landmark Treaty. [Continue reading..](#)

Focus on Members: Holly Easton



In 2019, I had the incredible fortune of sitting near to Tamara Lorincz at a U of T School of the Environment conference called “Building a Post-Carbon World.” Both Tamara and I like to show up to events way too early, it seems. As many of us know, Tamara Lorincz is a clear and compelling speaker. The brief introduction to the concept of a “carbon footprint” (and the long list of sources regarding military emissions, spending, and the lack of associated regulations) she gave me that morning was easily my most valuable takeaway from the conference. I left convinced that a greener future, meant a peaceful one. A month of heavy reading later, I had found and reached out to SfP to start my internship.

What attracted me to SfP was the organization’s commitment to both science and justice. As a budding scientist myself, I believe that science and scientists have a responsibility to better this world. I firmly believe in the democratization and accessibility of education, and I am passionate about science communication. I love SfP’s commitment to providing free webinars and resources and am eager to help us grow as an organization.

I have struggled in the world of climate science, as there is a prevalent belief that conservation and the climate emergency are distinct issues. I believe this creates a divide, elevating industry and technocratic solutions and ignoring the value and science of conservation-based strategies. As our planet gets hotter, gender base, racial, and socioeconomic inequities are only becoming more explicit and more stratified. Conservation is a justice issue. Conservation of carbon-sucking ecosystems, like mangrove forests and wetlands, have an incredible impact not only on carbon budgets but on mitigating the dangerous effects of climate change that disproportionately impact those least responsible for global emissions.

When I discuss my work with SfP with friends, it can be tricky to find the right “elevator pitch.” SfP’s work is broad and intimidating, making education and engagement challenging. As we move forward, developing a digital outreach strategy that prioritizes clarity of message and familiarity with Science for Peace as an organization will help elevate us as a trusted resource. Moving into 2021, I would love to see us create clear and specific opportunities for up-and-coming thinkers, researchers, and academics to gain experience writing or presenting research. Fostering and supporting students early in their careers is essential to ensuring continued research and activism for our organization. Although I am new to SfP and the activism space, I have big plans to live a long life on this planet and realize that a green and just future requires hard work and a lot of care.

Upcoming

SCIENCE FOR PEACE PRESENTS



A three-part webinar series, starting in January, on overcoming the climate crisis. Please read on to find out more!

Most of us realize that we are in the middle of a climate crisis. What we want to know is what, realistically, can we do over the next decade to forestall the catastrophe. These three webinars, in combination, suggest where we need to go, and how we might get there. Getting there will require organization and united action on the part of civil society organizations.

Symposium on Overcoming the Climate Crisis: Webinar 1 (Jan.26, 2021, 7-8 pm)

What Needs to Be Done

Speaker (15 minutes): Prof Danny Harvey, Climate Scientist, U of T

Commentators: Allie Rougeot (Toronto Fridays for Future), Sara Beiruti (SfP Student Campus Group)

Moderator: Richard Sandbrook

Format: Panel, music, video, contest, Q & A session.

Webinar 2 (Feb. 23, 2021, 7-8:30 pm)

Building Coalitions in Support of a Just, Green Transition

Panelists: Avi Lewis, The Leap Prof. Sue Ruddick, Geography, U of T : expert on coalition-building and Ian Haney Lopez, Law Professor at Berkeley: focuses on building coalitions across race and class

Moderator: Richard Sandbrook

Format: Begins with 3-minute video. discussion among panelists.
Q & A follows panel.

Webinar 3 (March 13 or 14, 2021, 7-8:30) *Joint webinar with World Beyond War *

The Climate-Peace Nexus

Aim: to explore the complementarity between the anti-militarist objectives of the peace movement and the efforts of the climate movement to bring about a just and green transition. Climate justice and peace are indivisible.

Panelists: David Suzuki invited (TBA)

Kasha Slavner: young activist and film-maker working on a documentary "1.5 Degrees of Peace" Clayton Thomas-Muller: "Stop at the Source" Campaigner, 350.org, and founder of Defenders of the Land / Others TBA

Webinar 1 (Jan. 26, 2021 7-8 pm): What Needs To Be Done?

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/overcoming-the-climate-crisis-what-needs-to-be-done-tickets-129583127623>

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